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COME AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND WITH THE TIMES AND ENJOY A WHISTLESTOP TOUR OF EUROPE FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR

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Hurd demands end to camp atrocities

Clamour grows for intervention

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN yesterday made an impassioned call for UN action to end the "intolerable abuses" of the camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina and demanded that those responsible be brought to book.

Douglas Hurd also called for an emergency session of the United Nations human rights commission to set up an urgent investigation and he urged all UN members to report any evidence on the ill-treatment of people detained in camps. The foreign secretary said that food and medicine must get through to the inmates of the camps and, if any centres were to remain, they should be placed under international supervision as soon as possible.

His statement was issued as world leaders, including the Pope and the Chief Rabbi in Britain, expressed outrage at

the pictures of torture and starvation in the Bosnian camps. The momentum for greatly increased Western intervention to ensure humanitarian aid appeared unstoppable.

Mr Hurd talked frequently yesterday with John Major about the issue of the camps and spent much of his day in a flurry of top-level consultations at the Foreign Office.

"The abuses which have been brought to light are intolerable and must be stopped," he said. "It is essential that qualified and independent observers should have immediate and continuing access to all camps and detention centres."

The prime minister, speaking in Barcelona, said that it was clear that the abuses "have to be stopped and have to be stopped quickly. I believe the first thing that is necessary is to have independent observers in those camps, with full access, without delay. The moment they are there we must make sure that those camps come under international and independent supervision," he said.

Mr Hurd noted that several organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross were already at work in the region. He said the UN investigation should appoint a special rapporteur. "We invited the UN secretary-general to co-ordinate the information provided by these organisations."

Britain yesterday submitted a resolution to the UN Security Council authorising this action. It called on all member states to provide "authenticated information on abuses so that those responsible can be brought to book."

The foreign secretary said that Britain was confident that it could reach an agreement with its friends in New York on the question of protecting the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Bosnia. He confirmed that Nato had begun contingency planning. A full council meeting is expected in Brussels next week, and Nato sources said yesterday that it could result



Travelling in hope: a policeman at Varazdin, Croatia, carries a Bosnian baby to a train waiting to evacuate refugees to Germany

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under the blanket authority of the UN.

Germany said yesterday that Serb forces in Bosnia's ethnic war could not be neutralised by air strikes alone and that they might retaliate by attacking UN personnel on the ground.

Volker Rübe, the defence minister, said: "We have the experience of Lebanon, even in the Gulf war, that you cannot master the situation from the air alone, and even less so in the Balkans," he said. "I believe the number of victims would increase very quickly," he said in an interview on German television.

UN had execution details for weeks

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has had evidence for the past month that about 200 men, who were being held by Serbs in a stadium in the Bosnian town of Bosanski Novi, were taken out and shot early in May, according to an internal UN document obtained by *The Times*. The document, a letter dated July 8 to the UN peace-keeping office in Belgrade, fuels the controversy about the UN's failure to publicise evidence of human-rights violations.

The letter cites information from 18 Bosnian men who were interviewed when they arrived in Croatia. The refugees had all been held in the stadium for some days.

"They report that every day some 30 new detainees arrive in the stadium," the letter says. "When the stadium is full the guards take some of them away to unknown destinations. Some witnesses report that in the first 15 days of May some 200 persons taken out of the stadium were shot dead nearby."

The UN letter says there is no doubt that "in Bosanski Novi, the Muslim ethnic group [20 per cent] continues to suffer persecution, deportation and intimidation from Serbian armed groups. A calculated strategy to 'cleanse' the area of Muslims appears to have intensified beginning in May 1992."

The refugees said Serb political leaders knew about the atrocities and some said that Serb leaders had ordered a retaliatory policy of "one Serb killed in the front line, one Muslim man will be killed."

Continued on page 14, col 1

Major flies in to back British bid for Games

BY ADAM FRESKO

JOHN Major was in Barcelona yesterday to watch the Olympics and to boost Manchester's bid to hold the event in the year 2000.

He saw Britain's 4 x 400m relay squad qualify for today's final. He also saw Linford Christie, the Olympic 100m champion, anchor the 4 x 100m relay team which also qualified for today's final.

He arrived with his family and was greeted by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee and Sir Robin Fearn, the British ambassador to Spain.

Mr Major will hold talks with Señor Samaranch and meet as many IOC members as possible during his stay to ensure Manchester's claims remain in the forefront. Mr Major said: "I have come to look at the tremendous facilities there are in Barcelona, and examine what would be needed in Manchester. I think Manchester would be an ideal place to have the Olympics in the year 2000."

□ The biggest Olympic shock yesterday came when Sergey Bubka, of Ukraine, the defending champion, world record pole vaulter and the hottest gold-medal favourite of the Games, failed to clear the bar in all three qualifying attempts and was eliminated.

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Company failure rate may have peaked

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

COMPANY failures slowed slightly in the second quarter of this year, according to the British Chambers of Commerce, raising hopes that the surge in company failures since 1988 may have peaked.

The chambers believe that the apparent slowing in failures may confirm evidence from their quarterly economic survey that the decline in the economy has ceased. However, they say that the level of failure is still too high. Personal business insolvency fell 2 per cent in the second quarter but is still 49 per cent up year on year. The chambers said that this figure was dispiriting and "cannot help consumer confidence".

The statistics came at the end of a week of warnings from big business to the government on the economy. The gloom was marked by the FT-SE 100 Index falling below its closing low of 2348.0 before recovering a little to close 27.5 points down at 2350.1.

It also emerged yesterday

that Britain's current account deficit on trade with the rest of the world was £1.1 billion bigger in 1991 than previously reported. The Central Statistical Office said that the invisible trade surplus was £900 million lower. The new estimate for the current account deficit, of £6.3 billion, included a net invisible surplus of only £3.9 billion, instead of the previously reported £4.8 billion.

A total of 5,816 firms went into voluntary or compulsory liquidation during the three months to the end of June, according to the chambers. The figure, adjusted for seasonal factors, shows a fall of 19 per cent on the first quarter, but remains 8 per cent higher than last year. In the year to the end of June, 23,072 companies collapsed, representing 2.4 per cent of the 2.99 million businesses active at the end of 1989.

Failures slow and dollar slides, page 15

Deluge of abuse greets travel boss

BY JOE JOSEPH

REVENGE was wet yesterday for one of the smaller creditors of the collapsed travel company, Land Travel. When the man poured a jug of water over Valere Tjolle, the company chairman, at the creditors' meeting, he was venting the anger of the 30,000 people who had lost their money and their holidays.

Unable to control his fury, the man walked up to long table separating the chairman from the creditors, poured a glass of water from a jug and threw it over Mr Tjolle. Obviously not content with the effect it had, as Mr Tjolle calmly wiped himself down, he threw another glass over him. To cries of "fish it off", the man emptied the rest of the jug over Mr Tjolle.

The avenger, an elderly man with a walking stick, said he had lost £29 for a coach trip to London. He added: "I was just so angry about the whole thing." He

then stormed out, swearing. Another furious woman tore up one of Mr Tjolle's brochures and hurled the pieces at him.

The Bath-based company collapsed at the end of July with debts of more than £12 million. More than 30,000 would-be holidaymakers lost their money and 2,500 were stranded abroad. Many of the 200 creditors at yesterday's meeting at a Bristol hotel could not contain their fury once they heard Mr Tjolle, now on police bail, declare that he was bankrupt and that there was no chance of a refund for anyone.

Robert Buller, the liquidator, said Mr Tjolle was taking £14,000 a week from the firm in the last months before liquidation. He maintained: "The company in my view was trading on a faulty basis over the last 18 months. They should have stopped trading a lot earlier." Mr Buller, who is to report to the Department of Trade on the

conduct of the firm's directors, has already had talks with fraud squad officers.

He told the meeting that in December 1990 a financial director warned Land Travel that it was insolvent and recommended liquidation. When his advice was rejected, the director resigned. Urging creditors to write to him with their allegations, Mr Buller said cheques were still being cashed up to the day before liquidation proceedings started.

The felled holidaymakers tossed missiles at Mr Tjolle, and those who could not lay their hands on a flask of water settled for shouting curses. Mr Tjolle confessed in a breaking voice: "I have let you down."

Mr Tjolle lives in with his wife Anthea and their three children at his manor house home near Devizes, Wilts. The four-storey, Bath stone house, surrounded by 100 acres, was built in 1850. Continued on page 14, col 4

Iraq split on weapons

Saddam Hussein's innermost leadership circle appears to be split over whether to provoke a second potentially dangerous confrontation with the West over United Nations weapons inspectors.

The latest UN team of monitors has arrived in Baghdad and President Bush has delivered a stern second warning to Saddam not to impede their search for weapons of mass destruction. Page 8

Court journey

Jersey's attorney-general, Philip Bailhache, is considering travelling to Gibraltar to prepare extradition application papers to secure the return of Roderick Newall, who was arrested at sea and is wanted to stand trial on charges of murdering his parents in 1987. Page 3

Test balanced

Pakistan failed, on the second day, to taken full advantage of a blameless pitch at the Oval and put the final Test and the series beyond England's reach. They finished the day 68 runs ahead of England's first-innings total of 207 with six wickets still standing. Page 32

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Towering achievement: the ten bells of the Great Tower at Magdalen College Oxford will ring out tomorrow to mark the 500th anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone. The tower, where the college choir sings each May, was described by Charles I as "the most absolute building in Oxford". It was built by William Reynolds in Cotswold stone from quarries at Headington and its first bells were installed in 1505. In the foreground in Chaplain's Quad is David Wynne's sculpture of Christ and Mary Magdalen

Trust hospital blocks patient queue-jumping by fundholding GPs

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AN NHS trust hospital is to place patients referred by a GP fundholding practice on a specially created "slow track" so that they have to wait longer for treatment.

Colchester General Hospital is to introduce the scheme after a local fundholder, Dr Tony Snell, hired consultants from the hospital to see his patients privately, avoiding the long wait for an out-patient appointment and getting his patients on the hospital waiting list sooner.

His move provoked a dispute in which the hospital accused him of acting unfairly by opening up a "fast track", enabling his patients to jump the queue for treatment. After details of the dispute appeared in *The Times*, the two sides agreed to the "slow track" plan.

Under the new arrangement, any of the 9,000 patients from the practice run by Dr Snell and his two partners who are referred to the hospital after being seen pri-

vately by consultants will be made to wait for treatment as long as those referred by other GPs via the slower route of the out-patients department. The cost of the private consultations, which Dr Snell claims is no greater than is charged by the hospital for an out-patient appointment, is met by the practice from its budget.

The agreement has implications for other GP fundholders, many of whom have arranged similar private deals with local consultants to secure advantages for their patients.

Last year the health department issued guidelines to all trust hospitals instructing them that patients of GP fundholders should not be given priority over others.

But Dr Alan Davison, chief executive of the Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust, which incorporates Colchester General Hospital, said that the deal would be an administrative headache and would still not

eliminate queue jumping. Under the arrangement a patient from the practice who is seen by a consultant privately in two weeks, compared with a normal wait for a routine out-patient appointment of two months, will have to wait six weeks — the difference between the two — before being placed on the in-patient waiting list.

However, Dr Davison said that when patients were judged to be in need of urgent treatment they would be admitted sooner.

"If a consultant says a patient needs to be admitted in two weeks we cannot then add on another punitive six weeks. We are sticking rigidly to the principle that there should be no queue jumping within the trust but there will be occasions when, because of a clinical assessment, queue jumping will occur."

"I can live with that and I cannot see a way around it. But it makes it more complex to ensure fair play."

Dr Davison said that administering the scheme would "certainly not be easy". The health department gives tacit approval to GP fundholders who secure advantages for their patients where this puts pressure on local providers to improve services to all GPs.

But ministers are concerned about GPs exploiting structural advantages of the fundholding scheme which do not expose shortcomings in the service and which may add to its administrative burden.

However, the General Medical Council says that GPs who negotiate priority treatment for their patients are not acting unethically so long as they do not disadvantage other patients.

In new guidance it says clinical need is "no longer enough on its own to resolve the complex decisions which have to be made about the setting of priorities" in health care.

Channel tunnel is top travel phobia

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Channel tunnel fills more people with dread than flying or sailing. More than 40 per cent of those questioned in a survey of travel phobias said that they would not use it.

The study, whose preliminary findings have been seen by *The Times*, asked more than 400 people about their fears of travel. Of the 96 replies so far examined, 40 said that they did not intend to travel through the tunnel, with nearly 38 per cent saying that their anxiety was so great that they would never consider it. Their concerns included terrorism, flooding, fire, being stuck in a broken-down train and anxiety that the roof might cave in.

The 59 per cent who said they would use the tunnel were not without fears. Only 19, or 34 per cent, said that they would travel without anxiety. About 4 per cent said they would travel but would be petrified. Almost 36 per cent would have some anxiety.

The survey has been carried out by the London College of Clinical Hypnosis, west London, on behalf of the Association of Clinical Hypnotherapists. Michael Joseph, director of studies at the college, said that a full analysis of the results would not be available until next week.

He said that the number of negative responses to the tunnel was horrifying. "We also looked at fear of flying, rail, bus, coach, car, the Underground, aeroplanes and sea ferries. The sea ferries come over much better than the Channel tunnel."

He said it was possible that anxieties might melt away once the Channel tunnel opened. He added that travel phobias could be treated, either through hypnosis or by techniques such as "thought-stopping exercises".

Government defends its economic policy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government last night issued a fierce defence of its economic policy, denouncing the "quick-fixers" who have been calling on it to devalue sterling.

A change of course through watering down or abandoning the commitment to low inflation would undermine the confidence that was the key to recovery, it said.

Stephen Dorrell, Treasury financial secretary, distinguished the devaluers "who hanker after a quick fix" from the supporters of sound money, who wanted long-term improvement. "There has never been a clearer choice between short-term relief and long-term benefit," he said.

If consumers and businessmen knew the government would not "debauch the currency in a mad dash for growth", they would begin to spend and invest again.

Speaking in Loughborough, Mr Dorrell said that since Britain joined the ERM in October 1990 the average family had seen their real disposable income increase by nearly 18.5 per cent, or £35 a week.

As the latest figures showed that companies were still collapsing at the rate of more than 60 a day, Mr Dorrell said the government's policy was well on the way to delivering its objective, with inflation having fallen from 11 per cent to under 4 per cent since it joined the ERM.

Rejecting devaluation, he said that countries that had devalued against the mark had ended up with higher interest rates because they found confidence in their anti-inflation credibility shot to ribbons overnight. Even if Britain left the ERM it could not opt out of its influence.

School protester alleges press smear

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

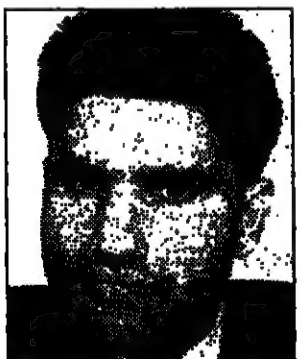
THE Asian community leader heading the campaign against alleged "institutional racism" at a Berkshire church school said yesterday that he was the victim of smear tactics, after local press reports claiming he had a violent criminal past.

Chaudry Iftakhar Ahmed, president of the Pakistan

Welfare Association, in Slough, was the driving force behind a 1,000-name petition to Berkshire County Council complaining of Eurocentric bias at Slough and Eton Church of England School, where 98 per cent of the 400 pupils are Asian but staff and governors are mostly white.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Mr Ahmed declined to confirm or deny reports that he had convictions for actual bodily harm, conspiracy to cause violent disorder and possessing an offensive weapon. "This is simply an attempt to create a diversion from the main issue. I'm seeking legal advice," he said.

General Rupra, deputy chairman of governors, said that the reports about Mr Ahmed's past were irrelevant. "We are fighting for our kids. What has this to do with his past?"



Ahmed: allegations of violent criminal record

Police ready to halt hippie festival

HAMPSHIRE was in a state of alert yesterday as police launched a massive operation to ward off an invasion of New Age travellers believed to be heading for an illegal festival expected to rival those of Castle Morton and Newtown earlier this year.

Police set up road blocks and closed off access routes to tracts of open land across the north of the county, but said they had turned back only about 100 travellers. The main impact was on cars heading for the south coast for the weekend rather than on straggling convoys of buses and vans searching for the Torpedo Town festival.

Travellers were adamant yesterday that a festival would take place somewhere in the county this weekend, although none was sure of the venue. Finn, a bearded traveller who has camped in a small woodland clearing just south of Winchester for several months in protest at the Twyford Down project, said: "You can't stop the tribes."

New Age travellers are determined not to be stopped by trenches, barricades and police checkpoints, Louise Hidalgo writes

Hundreds of vehicles have been stashed away in the area over the last few weeks ready for the festival.

Police were cautious in claiming success in halting the festival. Supt John Wilson, Surrey police's ground commander for the operation, said: "They can still descend from out of the woodwork in their thousands."

The festival was to have been held at Bramshot Common near Liphook, a beauty spot owned by the defence ministry on the borders of Hampshire, Surrey and East Sussex, where more than 10,000 people descended for a festival last August. But the large police presence around the 500-acre tract of heathland seemed to have successfully deterred at least some travellers. About 50 ve-

hicles were sent away.

One traveller, Daniel, had come from the Isle of Wight for the event and said he was overwhelmed by the police effort to stop the festival going ahead.

"I've been to a lot of festivals over the years but I've never seen as many police as there are here. It doesn't look as if the festival is going to be on the common. We'll have to go back on the road and see where the other travellers are heading," he said.

The festival organisers, believed to be based in Portsmouth, have had T-shirts printed for the event. They faxed radio stations and newspapers yesterday with details of a new location: Bushfield Camp, an old army barracks south of Winchester and overlooking Twyford Down. But by late yesterday

few travellers had arrived at the site and Hampshire police feared the information would have been a decoy.

Hardship payments for unemployed single people and couples without children who are not disabled will be stopped under new rules introduced by the government in a clampdown on payments to New Age Travellers who live on benefit without seeking work.

The move was immediately condemned by the Labour party, which accused the government of using the public's "understandable irritation" with the travellers as a "cover for a change which will apply to all claimants leaving those affected with no income whatsoever."

The Ramblers' Association said last night that farmers should not use the possibility of an invasion by New Age travellers to permanently block off public rights of way. Some had erected "tank traps" to prevent legal access, a spokesman said.

Two questioned over girl found strangled

Two men were last night being questioned by Hampshire detectives investigating the murder of Helen Gorrie, the 15-year-old girl whose body was found dumped in woods close to a footpath at Hornsea, near Portsmouth. The men, thought to be in their 20s, were taken to Havant police station.

Helen Gorrie was last seen alive by her brother just before midnight last Friday, before she went out. Her body was later found by guests at wedding in a nearby community hall. She had been strangled. For five days Hampshire police have carried out investigations in the area. Yesterday they said that two local men were being questioned by officers under the command of Det Supt Doug Quade. Police will have to decide today whether to release the men or to apply to a magistrate to continue holding them for further interviews.

Pilot survives crash

An RAF pilot escaped with just seconds to spare when his Harrier jump-jet crashed on take-off at RAF Wittering, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. Flight Lieutenant Chris Huckstet ejected from the aircraft just before it hit the runway and burst into flames. He was able to walk away from the scene of the crash and was being kept at the base medical centre for observation. RAF investigators are attempting to discover the cause of the accident, the second of its kind at the base this year. A spokeswoman for the base said that the aircraft had just lifted off the runway, which runs close to the A1, when it fell back to the ground and caught fire within the confines of the base. In a similar crash in May a pilot also escaped with his life, suffering two broken legs.

Nurse found guilty

A female psychiatric nurse was found guilty of professional misconduct after a violent patient claimed they had a love affair. The nurse, Miriam Walker, 32, of Wellingborough, Northampton, avoided being struck off by a disciplinary committee of the UK Central Council for Nurses. Mrs Walker, the former deputy manager of Eastfield Rehabilitation Centre, Northampton, was also found guilty of threatening to send the patient, known only as Martin, to a psychiatric hospital if he revealed the alleged affair. But a charge of having a sexual relationship with the man was dropped because his evidence was unsupported.

Veteran leads in chess

After five of the 11 rounds of the British chess championship in Plymouth the lead is held by the veteran Cambridge grandmaster Jonathan Mestel. He defeated Michael Basman, an international master from Surrey, who chose an eccentric defence. Undaunted, Mestel quickly won a pawn and in desperation Basman launched a wild sacrificial attack but ended several pieces in arrears and had to resign at the end of a furious time scramble. The fifth round was less fortunate for the reigning champion, Julian Hodgson from London, who seems likely to lose to Grandmaster Mark Hebden from Leicester.

Abortion advice halted

Irish student leaders face prosecution after a High Court judge banned them from distributing abortion information. Mr Justice Frederick Morris granted a permanent injunction to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, stopping 14 named student leaders from distributing information on abortion services in Britain. Dr Mary Lucey, right, the president of the society, said: "The law of Ireland has been upheld and the constitutional protection of unborn life has again been guaranteed." Dr Lucey said her organisation had not yet decided if it would take further court action against the students. The judge also referred the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who will decide if the students should be prosecuted for contempt of court by continuing to defy an injunction originally granted three years ago. After the ruling Maxine Brady, of the Union of Students in Ireland, said the students would continue to publish abortion information.



£2.5m drugs seized

Five men from the Balkans have been arrested in a customs raid on a St Albans hotel in which 23kg of heroin worth £2.5 million was seized, it was revealed yesterday. A Bosnian, three Croatians and a Turk were arrested in the operation, which came after several months of surveillance work. A Customs spokesman, Mike Thompson, said officers followed the suspects' minibus from Dover to the Lake Holidays hotel in St Albans and made the arrests there. Mr Thompson said the heroin came into Britain via the Balkan route and from the so-called golden crescent area — Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

Hunt for anorexic girl

Cheshire social services have alerted ports and airports in the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States about a girl suffering from anorexia who disappeared with her family after refusing further medical treatment. Siobhan Conlan, 16, weighs less than four stone and has lost so much weight that she cannot walk. She is believed to have caught a ferry to Dublin with her mother Eileen, 41, and two sisters after leaving their home in Cheshire. Siobhan has been under hospital care for the past two years.

Victim wins £1.48m

A woman left severely brain-damaged after a road accident has been awarded £1.48 million agreed High Court damages. Under a structured settlement, £800,000 of the award will be used to purchase a house to provide Anne Grainger, 35, with a guaranteed inflation-proof income for the rest of her life. Miss Grainger was unconscious for four months after she was knocked down by a van on a pedestrian crossing in Upper Richmond Road, Putney, southwest London, in January 1989. Once a sales officer with British Telecom, she is now totally dependent on her parents, Jean, 58, and Terry, 60, who care for her at home in Putney. Judgment was entered by consent against the van driver Robert Hagan, of Hayes, west London, who had admitted liability. The damages will be paid by his insurers.

Smithy fined for noise

Neighbours of a 150-year-old blacksmith's in Nunthorpe, Cleveland, claim that when Euan Watson, 28, is making and firing horseshoes the noise and vibration are unbearable, a court was told yesterday. Middlesbrough borough council, Mr Watson's landlords, was prosecuting him for two breaches of a noise abatement notice made in May last year. Mr Watson took a five-year lease on the forge in April 1990 and has a £12,000 a year turnover. David Seaford, his solicitor, told the court: "The council acted very unreasonably in applying to the tenancy condition that it could only be used as a forge, and then keeping quiet about the noise nuisance." Mr Watson admitted breaching the abatement notice and was fined £100 with no order for costs or compensation.

Telegraph price rises

From this morning the price of *The Daily Telegraph* on a Saturday will increase by 10p to 60p. It is the second cover price rise within a six-month period. *The Times* continues to cost 50p on a Saturday and 45p from Monday to Friday.

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Attorney-general to oversee extradition of murder suspect

BY STEWART TENDLER AND DOMINIC TONNER

PHILIP Bailhache, the attorney-general for Jersey, said yesterday that he might travel to Gibraltar to help prepare the extradition application to bring Roderick Newall back to court on the island, charged with the murder of his mother and father in 1987.

Mr Newall, located on his 60th yacht off the Canary Islands earlier this week, was arrested by police on board the frigate HMS Argonaut and taken to Gibraltar. Nicholas and Elizabeth Newall vanished in October 1987. Last year a legal hearing to declare the couple legally dead heard evidence from a forensic scientist that they had been killed in their home. Yesterday Mr Bailhache would not say whether he foresaw any difficulties or how long any extradition process would take although he said no trial was likely before next year.

Jersey is covered by the 1989 Extradition Act but Gibraltar is subject to an extension of different legislation within the 1967 Fugitive Offenders Act. Chief Insp Bill Danino, of the Jersey police, said that if the case on which extradition was based went unchallenged the process could take a few weeks. If Mr Newall decided to fight it could take many months.

Jersey police said no warrant had been issued for Mr Newall's brother Mark and that they had no plans to interview him. Police were not carrying out any search for the bodies of the Newalls.

While Roderick remained in a Gibraltar prison, Mark was in Paris, where he works for an Arab bank. Since their

parents' death the Newall brothers seem to have gone very separate ways. Roderick settled for a life mainly at sea while Mark continued his banking and City career. Their links with Jersey have grown weaker, apart from their parents' home which they still own and now stands empty.

At the time of his parents' disappearance in 1987, Roderick, then 22 and educated at Radley, near Oxford, was a lieutenant with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. He had signed for a three-year commission in 1984 and then extended it for another year. In 1988, a few months after the Newalls vanished, he left the army.

In the next few years he turned to the sea. His parents had been keen sailors and Roderick took their £25,000 yacht and began sailing abroad. He is known to have sailed down to the Falkland Islands and made a number of other trips. Earlier this year he returned to Britain with plans to set up a yacht chartering business and began looking for a new vessel. Last month he bought the *Austral Soma*, thought to be worth up to £350,000, and headed from Britain for the Falkland Islands.

Mark, now 26, sold his home on Jersey after his parents' disappearance. He has worked in the United States and is now settled in France. Yesterday he was not available for comment at his office but was reported to be surprised at the news of his brother's arrest.

Steven Beldahan, who was crewing Roderick Newall's yacht when it was boarded off the Canary Islands, arrived back in Britain last night and said that he was stunned by what had happened. He had been questioned by police in Gibraltar for several hours.

He was asked long he had known Mr Newall. "I felt they were being particularly harsh on him. He was handcuffed during the journey into Gibraltar and was looking very depressed, staring at the ground most of the time," said Mr Beldahan, of Staines, west London.

Wanted man tricked on to Navy frigate

BY DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

THE man arrested at sea off Casablanca on Thursday was tricked on to a Royal Navy frigate, the ship's captain admitted yesterday.

Roderick Newall, 27, yesterday completed his first day in the remand wing of Gibraltar's Moorish Castle prison while Jersey police prepare a case for extradition in connection with the murder of Mr Newall's parents in 1987.

It emerged from sources representing Mr Newall that he feels he was treated in an unnecessarily harsh way and was tricked on to the frigate HMS Argonaut after being led to think this was a routine inspection.

Steve Beldahan, a crew member of Mr Newall's 60th yacht, *Austral Soma*, left Gibraltar for Britain yesterday.

Mr Newall's lawyers are questioning why a Jersey warrant has been issued five years after the event and why this dramatic arrest was necessary when Mr Newall was apparently in Britain about a month ago and was arrested



Newall told it was a routine inspection

for a traffic offence. His Gibraltar lawyer, Chris Finch, claimed that Mr Newall was lured to the deck at gunpoint. Military personnel agreed that Mr Newall and Mr Beldahan had been returned to Gibraltar handcuffed below decks in a spreadeagle position.

"Captain Bob Stevens of Argonaut said the approach to *Austral Soma* had been 'inexplicable' and in radio conversations the navy pretended not to know the name of the boat or its passengers."

Ashdown case man 'a pawn'

BY LIN JENKINS

THE man who tried to sell a document to the *News of the World* detailing the sexual relationship between Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, and his former secretary claimed yesterday that he was a pawn in a general election smear campaign.

Simon Berkowitz told the jury at the Central Criminal Court that in retrospect he was foolish to take the stolen document from a man he barely knew in his local pub. At the time he had not been suspicious but he now believed that the whole incident

"had deeper political implications" and was an orchestrated attempt at muck-raking. It was only when the *News of the World* carried a story saying the document had been stolen and likening it to Watergate that he became suspicious.

Mr Berkowitz, 45, a painter and decorator from Hove, Sussex, has denied stealing the memorandum and £23,63 cash in January from the City office of Mr Ashdown's solicitor. He also denies handling the stolen document.

"I just feel that somehow or

other I was a small pawn in a big set-up. The person who passed it to me was not as dense as he made out and I was the dupe one for accepting it," he said.

Asked by Judge Michael Coombe to explain what he meant, Mr Berkowitz replied: "I firmly believe that this had deeper implications than would appear on the surface... it was an attempt to smear Mr Ashdown and indeed to smear the Conservative party as well because I was a Conservative member."

The hearing continues on Monday.

JCB thief runs over and kills woman, 75

BY NICHOLAS WATT

POLICE launched a manhunt yesterday after an elderly housekeeper was killed when she tried to prevent a thief from stealing a JCB digger belonging to the family she had served for 56 years. Annabella Bowman, 75, fell under the digger's rear wheels after she chased the thief for 100 yards.

The family offered a £15,000 reward to catch the killer of the woman who had been their nanny for three generations. Miss Bowman's godson, Michael Smyth, who was brought up by her, said: "She came to work for my nan and granddad. She was the best woman in my life."

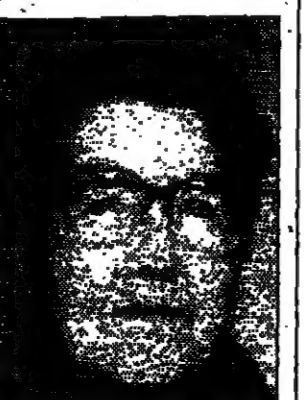
Miss Bowman was alone in the house she shared with Mr Smyth in Enfield, north London, on Thursday night, when she heard the thief start up the JCB digger parked outside.

Jimmy Croft, who saw the incident from his shop, said: "The JCB went past and there was a figure in green hanging on to the door handle. The figure was hanging on between the two wheels on the left hand side of the vehicle and the driver must have seen her. She was trying to get him to stop and must have been screaming and shouting. The next thing was that

one of my staff looked into the road and saw the figure lying there. She was conscious and moaning in pain."

Passing motorists tried to help Miss Bowman, while others chased the digger. She was taken by ambulance to hospital, where she died.

After running over Miss Bowman, the thief drove on to the roundabout of the A10 and the M25, about 350 yards from the scene, before running off. He is described as white, 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in tall, in his late 20s, wearing a black jumper and grey or light blue trousers. Police want to hear from the driver of a low-loader that was parked near by.



Bowman: family offers reward of £15,000

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The trials of poor Jani

Jani Allan always was the poor little rich girl who went for broke. But after the glamorous South African's libel trial defeat, even her former friends were



asking why she had reduced her reputation and finances to the tattered state of the now-famous green underpants of her neo-Nazi lover...

Stuart Wavell on the turbulent career of Jani Allan, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow



Picking up the threads: John McCarthy and Jill Morrell, who are writing the story of Mr McCarthy's five-and-a-half years in captivity

McCarthy celebrates one year of freedom

BY BILL FROST

JOHN McCarthy, the former Beirut hostage, today celebrates the first anniversary of his release from a tiny cell and the casually sadistic treatment meted out over five-and-a-half years by his Lebanese captors. In an open letter released yesterday Mr McCarthy and his girlfriend, Jill Morrell, speak of the "daunting task" they face as they try to rebuild their lives after the ordeal.

"We have been trying to return to some semblance of normality," they said. "We have spent the time very quietly getting to know each other again, and in John's case, picking up with friends and family."

The letter goes on: "John has been getting to know the world as it is in 1992 and coming to terms with both dramatic political changes and the way in which friends have moved on

in their lives. It is still a daunting task."

Mr McCarthy's joy and relief today will almost be outweighed by anger and distress over what he claims is an attempt by fellow British television journalists to exploit his suffering. Mr McCarthy is furious about a Granada television drama documentary, made without his co-operation, which is due to be broadcast this autumn. At one stage he contemplated legal action to compel the company to shelve the film.

Mr McCarthy said: "I am distressed that anyone should try to portray my story when I haven't been able to tell it myself. It gives me a feeling of being exploited."

Mr McCarthy is writing the story of his captivity in collaboration with Miss Morrell. The couple, who have studiously avoided the press since they began the project, have taken a

country cottage in the Home Counties. They write in separate rooms during the day and compare the two sides of their story each evening.

Mark Lucas, Mr McCarthy's literary agent, said the manuscript would be ready for publication next spring. "The book is very raw, very painful and very funny. John and Jill have very different styles but the two blend together very well," he added.

Mr McCarthy's captivity had left deep psychological wounds, Mr Lucas said. "He has to come to terms with being in charge of his own destiny after years of being controlled by his captors. Now he can decide when to speak, when to stay silent, when to get up and when to go to bed."

However, the television drama documentary had tested McCarthy's good humour and tolerance almost beyond their limits, Mr Lucas said.

"Granada are short-changing the hostages and short-changing the public. How can they tell the story when the main players are still trying to work it out for themselves?"

Pat McCarthy, John's father, said: "He seems to be in terrific form — cheerful, very much in charge and very happy with Jill. But I don't ask him about his time as a hostage. I wait for him to bring things up in conversation, but that does not happen very often." He said that no special celebration was planned for today.

Those close to John McCarthy emphasise the difficulty he has had in coming to terms with life as a free man. "He has had to get to know people again, has had to make decisions, even down to what to order in a restaurant. But he is a survivor — sane, strong, cheerful and optimistic about life," one friend said.

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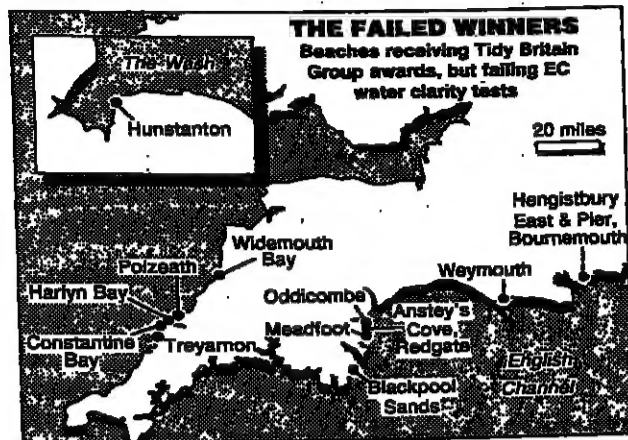
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Testing the water: experts want a single body to judge the state of the seaside



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Exotic species on our shores may be the first concrete signs of global warming

Wildlife brings warning of changes in climate

WIDESPREAD changes taking place in the behaviour of British wildlife may be the first tangible signs of global warming, some scientists believe.

A series of new behaviour patterns is becoming visible in insects, birds, fish and small marine animals in and around the British Isles. Young are emerging earlier in the year, species are extending their ranges both in distance and altitude, and species new to the country are appearing. Some species are booming past previous records, while others have suffered marked declines.

Individually, many of the changes seem minute and have hardly been noticed except by specialist observers. Put together, as *The Times* will attempt to do for the first time in a series beginning today, they form a picture of ecosystems in Britain apparently undergoing significant alteration.

Some scientists are now considering whether these are the early warning signs of the long-term climate change predicted by computer models of the greenhouse effect, the



Scientists suspect that changes in the habits of birds and insects in Britain, and fish and other marine life around our coasts, may be evidence that the world really is getting warmer, reports Michael McCarthy in the first of a series

warming of the Earth's atmosphere by the increased emission of industrial gases, such as carbon dioxide from coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles.

Professor John Lawton, director of the Centre for Population Biology at Imperial College, London, says: "When you look at marine life, insects, birds, and the signature from all this, it certainly looks suspicious and it is consistent with climate change. The probability of all these things being independent events and not due to climate change gets extremely small."

Bernard Tinker, director of terrestrial and freshwater

sciences for the Natural Environment Research Council, agrees that there is "clear evidence that there are changes going on", but insists that it is too early to say whether they signify a real change in climate or just a limited period of warmer weather.

"Whether these represent the beginning of the long-term warming trend that we expect, of up to two or three degrees, one can't yet say. There have always been climatic variations," he said.

Dr Tinker said that Britain was a particularly good country in which to ask the question: is something happening?

"We have good sets of records, a wide spectrum of climate, and a lot of boundaries where species are at the limit of their ranges," he said.

This last factor makes for a vivid backdrop against which changes can be seen. Several bird species, such as the nuthatch, are moving north in England, beyond their previous breeding range, as are a number of butterfly species, such as the comma. Other birds, such as Savi's and Cetti's warblers, are moving into southern England for the first time from continental Europe.

An increasing number of tropical fish, such as the triggerfish and the marbled ray, are being found around British coasts, while in the Channel a whole series of cold-water marine animals such as jellyfish, planktonic arrowworms and barnacles have been displaced in the last decade by their warm-water cousins.

Mayflies, the favourite insects of the trout fisherman, appear to be hatching up to a fortnight earlier than usual on some of the famous chalk streams such as the River Test, while aphids, the most destructive of Britain's agricultural pests, are flying into crops earlier than recorded before.

Some of these changes seem to pre-date the period of noticeably warmer weather in Britain, which began with the winter of 1988-9, and has led to the present drought in parts of the south and east. Others seem to parallel it.

Seven of the world's eight warmest years on record have occurred since 1983, and 1990 was the hottest year recorded, both for Britain and the globe as a whole.



In flight: the nuthatch is moving north



Fairweather friend: a triggerfish, one of the tropical species invading UK waters

Air hunts for poachers criticised

By KERRY GILL

THE government was accused yesterday of using huge amounts of public money to protect privately owned estates from salmon poachers in the Western Isles.

Helicopters are being hired by the fisheries protection agency at an average of £400 an hour to patrol island coastlines in their hunt for illegally laid salmon nets. Calum MacDonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, has demanded that the government disclose the amount of taxpayers' money being spent on the patrols. Mr MacDonald said that at least "tens of thousands of pounds" a year were being spent trying to catch poachers

who, he said, posed only a tiny threat to salmon stocks in the islands. Each helicopter flight, he said, lasted several hours.

"It is a lot of public expense for little public benefit simply to protect the interests of private landowners. People are feeling harassed and there simply isn't a problem to justify this kind of activity." The notion that there are giant criminal cartels carrying out poaching on a huge scale was ludicrous.

The disclosure has done nothing to mollify local opinion that private landowners control too much of the Western Isles and a view that the Scottish Office is allowing itself to be used as a tool of

estate owners. Lewis and Harris is almost entirely under the ownership of private estates.

Last year the agency found 110 illegal salmon nets in Scottish inshore waters. Seizures this year amounted to 67 nets by the end of last month. Last night a spokeswoman for the agency said: "Salmon catches have declined in recent years and strict enforcement is therefore necessary to protect salmon fishing and the major benefits this brings to tourism and the Scottish economy. The agency is convinced that the resources involved are necessary to tackle a serious problem of illegal fishing and offer good value for money."

Police chiefs oppose gun control changes

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables are opposing government plans to create a civilian firearms control board to regulate private gun ownership because police fear the new board will not protect the public as well as current police control of firearms.

The chief constables argue that the new system would remove the valuable local intelligence gathered by officers which is often useful in deciding whether the certificates should be issued. They want to keep the police power to veto licences or certificates, and say the current system does not need changing.

Police also argue that costings for the board, mooted by the Home Office earlier this year, could prove to be very inaccurate. The cost of certificates would rise steeply and gun owners might abandon shooting or be tempted to keep guns without a licence. The Association of Chief Police Officers has already sent evidence to the Home Office on some parts of the proposals. A meeting of chief constables has now endorsed the opposition to the proposal.

According to the Home Office 55,600 new shotgun and firearms licences were issued in 1990 and 273,000 were renewed. Under the current system, responsibility for

issuing licences is taken by local chief constables, who can be challenged in the courts. Officers check the credentials of applicants for licences and also maintain checks on the security of weapons kept at a club or home.

In March the Home Office proposed to replace the police with a firearms control board of civilians trained in firearms and crime prevention. The board, which the Home Office says could offer a fast, cost-effective control, would oversee the work of local civilian officers who would check applications for shotgun certificates and firearms licences.

The Home Office has argued that the change would free 200 police officers for other more urgent duties. The new board would take over the responsibility for granting authority to possess prohibited weapons and approval for gun clubs. The registration system would be computerised nationally.

The plan has received support from shooting groups. The Home Office's own firearms consultative committee also supported the change, although it has argued that the police should be involved. Police members of the committee were opposed to changes.

Flights hit as crews walk out

EARLY morning flights from Manchester and Birmingham were disrupted by a two-hour lightning strike by British Airways cabin crew yesterday.

The stoppage followed the imposition of a pay and conditions package which the Transport Union says will cost each employee £2,000 a year.

Passengers eventually got away on combined flights or with other airlines. British Airways said it was not officially notified about the stoppage, which happened when staff attended a mass meeting.

George Ryde, the union's national aviation secretary, apologised to passengers and said that if BA had responded to the union's call for urgent negotiations several weeks ago the disruption would have been avoided.

"We regret any inconvenience this dispute has caused to the travelling public. I hope this issue can now be resolved and we are ready to talk to BA today," he said. A BA spokesman said the airline was "surprised and disappointed" by the walkout.

Planning rules 'hinder efforts to protect the countryside'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS are being intimidated into granting planning permission by the threat that they will have to pay heavy costs to developers if they refuse, a report published yesterday says.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England says that the slightest error by planners can lead to councils having to pay thousands of pounds to people whose plans have been turned down. In particular councils who refuse plans on environmental grounds were vulnerable to costs orders on the basis that protecting the countryside was not a valid reason for refusal.

Tony Burton, the CPRE's senior planner, said the system was meant to deter those who sought to delay planning enquiries for their own ends. Instead it was acting to inhibit councils seeking to protect the environment. A draft government circular on costs in planning proceedings offered no protection for councils who sought to use environmental grounds to reject planning applications.

"Planning authorities must feel confident in refusing planning permission on environmental grounds and be assured of government support," said Mr Burton.

Among the examples cited

by the CPRE was a case in which South Lakeland council in Cumbria had to pay £25,000 costs after a planning inspector criticised its refusal of plans for sheltered housing on environmental grounds. In another case, Bath City Council was ordered to pay £8,300 costs after councillors decided that a plan for an office block should be rejected because it would not fit into the historic city without giving the developer a chance to redesign.

Mr Burton said: "The government has recognised the value of the planning system

as an instrument of environmental policy. It should ensure that this is not undone by a policy on costs which intimidates planning authorities from applying environmental policies."

A £3 billion scheme for offices, homes and a park at King's Cross was given qualified approval by Camden council yesterday. Council officers will meet the developers next week to agree final terms for granting outline planning permission for 134 acres of derelict land north of the railway terminus, the biggest vacant inner city site in Europe.

Camden has taken three years to approve the scheme in principle. Among the conditions set by the council is a reduction in office space by 615,000 sq ft to 5.25 million sq ft. The scheme includes two 350 ft towers designed by Sir Norman Foster, 35 acres of open space and 1,300 homes for local people to rent. When it is completed, the developers say 25,000 people will be employed in the area.

Gordon Graham, of the development consortium, which includes property firms Rosehaugh and Stanhope and the National Freight Corporation, said work would probably not start before 1995.



Foster: twin towers for King's Cross project

Deaf driver caught by his chatter

A DEAF and dumb man arrested for drink-driving was driving erratically because he was chatting in sign language to his passenger, magistrates heard yesterday.

Keith Hylton, an unemployed labourer, was banned for a year after he admitted driving with excess alcohol in his breath in Wardour Street, Soho, London, at 2.50am on June 27. Marlborough Street magistrates warned him that, when his ban expired, he should not try to drive and talk in sign language at the same time.

Patricia Leatham, for the prosecution, said Hylton, 27, of Wood Green, north London, was stopped for driving erratically and breath tests showed that he was one point clear of double the drinks limit.

"I was looking for a car park as I wanted to walk to a club, and at the last minute police stopped me as I was finding it difficult finding the car park and there were yellow lines everywhere," Hylton told the court through a sign-language interpreter. "Because my passenger and I are both deaf, we were talking in sign language."

He was also fined £100, with £20 costs, after apologising to the magistrates.

Driving test fonder fondler is jailed

A driving examiner was jailed for four months at Oxford Crown Court yesterday for fondling the breasts of four women as they took their tests. Clinton Hadley, 35, of Great Barr, Birmingham, had denied indecently assaulting the women in Oxford last November.

The Recorder, Conrad Seagroatt, QC, said that Hadley, found guilty on Thursday, had abused his position of trust and taken advantage of the women. "This was a clear case of sexual harassment — a man in a position of trust who took advantage of four women in a nervous state."

Hadley had regarded the women as "a happy hunting ground" while he was on secondment to a driving test centre in Oxford and away from his family, he told the court.

David Lees, for the prosecution, told the court that all four women had passed their driving test, but each later complained that Hadley touched their breasts during the tests. One of the women said Hadley told her: "If you are nice to me I will be nice to you."

Man killed in fuel tank blast

A man died in an explosion at a combined heat and power station in Hereford yesterday. Hundreds of people were evacuated as the blaze spread to three large fuel tanks.

Burning fuel flowed through the streets, setting parked cars alight and bringing the centre of the city to a standstill. The explosion happened while a contractor was welding indicator equipment on a 60ft high fuel tank at the station, next to the HP Bulmer Cider factory.

Escape charges

A probation officer, Pamela Luck, 53, from Faversham, Kent, was remanded on bail at Sittingbourne yesterday accused of helping Michael Fenlon, a convicted armed robber, to escape from custody and harbouring him.

Bodies named

Two bodies washed up at Porthgain, west Wales, earlier this week were identified yesterday as Martin Horsley, 45, and his son Benjamin, 18, of Nottam, West Yorkshire. They were swept out to sea three weeks ago.

Sunday launch

Yorkshire's first Sunday newspaper will be launched tomorrow, undercutting existing nationals at 45 pence. The 72-page *Yorkshire on Sunday*, owned by Westminster Press, is being printed at Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Alcohol ban

Terrance Lang, a coach driver of Perranporth, Cornwall, accused of setting out on a jol while almost three times over the alcohol limit, was banned from drinking alcohol as a condition of bail at Horseferry Road court, Westminster.

Late medal

Ron Young, 82, a war veteran of Newport, Gwent, has been awarded a campaign medal by Russian officials nearly 50 years after he served on a vital relief convoy. Only five of 3 ships carrying medical supplies arrived; the rest were sunk by German U-boats.

Charity verdict

A crown court judge has sentenced himself to 24 hours solitary confinement. Judge Ian McIntosh will do time in tim in Truro to raise money for the city's cathedral. His only food will be a cake containing a file

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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

Tycoon Rowland helps to broker Rome ceasefire deal in 16-year conflict

Mozambique rivals agree to end war

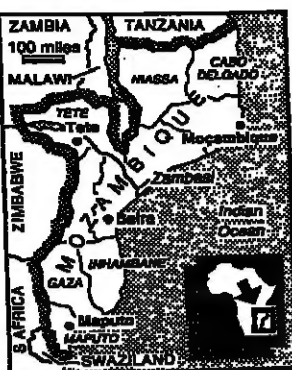
By JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Mozambican government and Renamo, the national resistance movement, signed an agreement yesterday committing them to a total ceasefire in their 16-year war by October 1.

The accord was signed in the Italian Senate building by President Chissano and Afonso Dhlakama, the Renamo leader. The ceremony crowned three days of talks in Rome that began with the first face-to-face meeting between the two former enemies since the war began. Observers in Southern Africa said that the talks had achieved everything expected other than an immediate ceasefire. "October 1 is not a very long way away in terms of the Mozambique war," one Harare-based expert said.

Mozambique watchers said the agreement was a considerable triumph for the country's church leaders, who arranged the talks with Italy, which is the biggest aid donor in Mozambique, via the Vatican. It also was a coup for President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, and Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive of the Lonrho conglomerate that has wide interests in Africa. The rebel leader flew to the talks on Mr Rowland's private aircraft.

At the signing ceremony, the two Mozambican leaders addressed each other as "dear brother" and promised that over the next seven weeks their representatives would negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement. The civil war has



raged almost continuously since 1976, a year after Mozambique's independence from Portugal, and has killed more than one million people. A serious drought this year gave added urgency to the Rome talks.

The peace process has dragged on for two years. A formal ceasefire agreement is expected to be signed in Africa, probably in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. Mario Raffaeli, an Italian mediator, said that the two sides agreed to protect freedom and democracy and the personal safety of all citizens. Mr Dhlakama said that he had opposed a "simple truce" because he needed "full guarantees" before the fighting could stop.

The rebel leader thanked Mr Rowland for his role in the peace process and President Chissano also acknowledged the role of Mr Rowland in remarks during the ceremony. Both Mozambican leaders

embraced the British businessman after the ceremony and President Mugabe told him: "Well done."

Mr Rowland has considerable mining and agricultural interests in Mozambique, which is potentially a hugely rich country. One observer in Harare said: "If there weren't a war, Mozambique would be quite a good investment so long as you brought your own infrastructure."

He said that it was probably the influence of Mr Rowland that brought the rebel leader to a meeting with President Mugabe a month ago, where he agreed to meet the Mozambican president. "Rowland has oiled the wheels of the thing," the observer said.

A partial ceasefire was signed in Rome in December 1990 but took months to come into effect. African experts said just how long the total ceasefire will take to be implemented is difficult to determine because nobody knows the exact extent of Mr Dhlakama's power. "Renamo is not much more than a locally based warlord organisation," said one diplomatic source in Harare. "You can expect an end to politically motivated attacks on economic targets, communications and villages. What will continue



Embracing peace: President Chissano of Mozambique, left, hugging Renamo's Afonso Dhlakama yesterday

is the banditry. Mozambique is awash with weapons." Mr Rowland plans to follow up his success in Mozambique by brokering a peace accord for Sudan within the next couple of months, he said yesterday. He told reporters in Rome that he was also working to end the Sudanese civil war, in which the Sudan People's Liberation Army

(SPLA) has been fighting since 1983 to end what it says is domination of the non-Muslim south by the Arabised north. "We are also very much interested in a settlement in the Sudan... it's going to be six to eight weeks before an agreement is signed," he said. He said his mediation efforts go back eight years and are not motivated by money. "Of

course not, I'm too old for that. I'm 75. It's no longer business, it's my personal involvement," he said.

Mr Rowland said he had often put his private jet at the disposal of Colonel John Garang, the SPLA leader, and would be flying with him in the next few days to an unspecified African destination to work on the peace

process. He was trying to bring Colonel Garang together with Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir, the Sudanese head of state.

"I've flown with Garang, but also with al-Bashir and before that with Sadiq al-Mahdi [the former prime minister] and before that with Jaafar Nimeiri [the former president]."

Aidid men reject UN Somali role

FROM REUTER IN BARDERA, SOMALIA

FEASTING on steak and spaghetti, Somali gunmen said yesterday they were adamantly opposed to a United Nations plan to deploy a blue beret force to bring food for millions of starving Somalis.

"We cannot allow armed foreigners. Bringing in foreign troops is an infringement of the sovereignty of the people of Somalia," Muhammad Ahmed Noor, a senior aide to General Muhammad Farah Aidid, the Mogadishu warlord, said. "All we need is more food to give our forces so they can then take care of security. The UN has only one option — to flood the country with food," he said, to nods of agreement from fellow fighters.

At a home for displaced people some 200 yards from the high command in Bardera, scores of starving children were dying or sliding towards death, unaware of the arguments. Other children sleep on the road or in abandoned warehouses, in makeshift houses of paper, sticks, polythene and cardboard boxes. They have no blankets or clothes, and are dehydrated and hopeless.

"We saw 30 deaths in 20 minutes late on Wednesday," one relief worker said. "It is grim." Thousands of people have been killed or maimed because of General Aidid's feud with his rival, President Ali Mahdi Muhammad.

Kenya opposition meets to heal rift

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

LEADERS of Kenya's opposition parties met yesterday in an attempt to heal a split that threatens to divide the electorate along tribal lines and destroy opposition chances of winning in the first multiparty elections in 26 years.

No election date has been set by President Moi who has until March next year to decide when to hold the polls. It is believed here that he would try to exploit the rift within the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (Ford) and call a snap election in the next two months.

"Having been seen as the leaders of the opposition movement and the natural heirs to power, Ford is now looking totally unelectable," a diplomat said yesterday. "There is a real chance that Moi will go to the polls soon and sweep the board. A few months ago a victory for Karim [President Moi's Kenya African National Union] would have been a long shot. Now, thanks to the silly behaviour of Ford, it looks like a near certainty." The first split with

in Ford came at the end of last month when Kenneth Matiba and Martin Shikuku, the party general secretary, demanded that the first elections within the party be postponed from August 1 in an attempt to head off a bid for the leadership by Jaramogi Odinga Oginga, the former chairman of Ford and Kenya's first vice-president under Jomo Kenyatta.

The election, boycotted everywhere except in strongholds of Mr Oginga's Luo tribe, was marked by the violent deaths of two Ford activists. Since then both sides have resorted to the sort of political rhetoric which in the past would have been only directed at the president. Mr Shikuku recently accused Mr Oginga of being a "dictator", while Mr Shikuku himself has been viewed with suspicion by some opposition groups after having a meal with Mr Moi. His enemies within Ford believe that he has been charged with wrecking it in return for the post of vice-president under Mr Moi.

Slovo asks de Klerk to admit his 'guilt'

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

IT IS almost ten years since Ruth First, the wife of Joe Slovo, leader of the South African Communist Party, was assassinated by a parcel bomb while in exile in Maputo, Mozambique.

Yesterday, Mr Slovo, now the avuncular hero of the young black militants, ruminated in public about reconciliation with the men in the security establishment who sanctioned her death on August 17, 1982.

The thoughts of retribution for apartheid's crimes were brought about, he said, by seeing the Johannesburg production of *Death and the Maiden*, in which he says he identified with the lawyer husband who heads a commission to uncover the crimes committed against detainees in Chile during the Pinochet years. Paulina, the lawyer's wife in the play, had been savagely tortured and raped, and he unwittingly brings the suspected torturer home to supper.

Writing in *Business Day*, the daily paper of the commercial establishment, Mr Slovo says: "More than once, sitting opposite government teams at the negotiating table and facing, among others, luminaries of the security establishment, I wondered which of them gave the nod for the killing of my wife." He



Slovo: wife was killed by parcel bomb

quotes Paulina: "I can only forgive someone who really repents, who stands up among those he has wronged and says, 'I did this, I did it and I will never do it again'."

Mr Slovo writes: "If Nuremberg-type trials are not on the agenda, then at the very least the truth must out. The most unconvincing aspect of President de Klerk's conversion is that he refuses to confess his own complicity in apartheid's crimes. This covers at least a share of the political responsibility for the torture and cell and death squad killings of so many hundreds of political activists." He concludes: "So let's hear de Klerk say, 'I helped do it, and I'll never do it again'."

THE TIMES

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Iraq leaders 'split over showdown with UN'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A DIVISION has emerged in the innermost circle of the leadership in Iraq over whether to provoke another confrontation with the West on weapons inspections, according to a senior figure in the country's opposition.

The rift came as the latest United Nations inspection team arrived in Baghdad yesterday, prompting President Bush to deliver a second strong warning to President Saddam Hussein not to impede the inspectors' search for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Saddam is inclining towards the hardline faction led by his eldest son, Uday, which believes that the time is ripe for provocative action, said Ahmad Chalabi, a member of the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of opposition groups that met James Baker, the American Secretary of State, this week.

"This faction calculates that President Bush lacks the resolve for a fight now because of the Middle East peace process, his preoccupation with Yugoslavia and his re-election campaign," Dr Chalabi said in a telephone interview from Washington. "They argue that challenging the West is the best way of deflecting internal problems. There is real unrest in the Republican Guards and with the economic crisis."

The second faction is urging Saddam not to provoke a crisis, arguing that President Bush might use the opportunity to start a decisive military action. Dr Chalabi said after meeting American officials that Washington was determined to prevent Saddam from "generating crises whenever he chooses. Saddam will

enforced." Mr Bush, fighting for his political life in the presidential election, seems determined that there should be no repetition of the embarrassment last month when Saddam prevented an inspection of the agriculture ministry for three weeks, then dictated the composition of a new UN inspection team.

President Bush made no direct reference to the use of force yesterday, but on Thursday Marlin Fitzwater, his spokesman, pointedly observed that "no one should be under any apprehension that there are not ways to seek a very forceful compliance". American officials said the team intends to inspect a range of Iraqi facilities, possibly including a government ministry. If Iraq resists, contingency plans call for an immediate denunciation of Iraq by the UN Security Council, followed by allied bombing of selected targets if Iraq still did not back down.

Saddam has relied on bluster and defiance in recent weeks to boost his standing at home, while Mr Bush has made it clear that he will not allow himself to be embarrassed again by a dictator he was supposed to have toppled in the Gulf war. More triumphalist rhetoric is expected from Saddam today on the fourth anniversary of the end of the eight-year war with Iran. The Iraqi news agency said Saddam, "the hero of victory and peace", would "address an important pan-Arab speech to the glorious Iraqi people".

The 22-member UN team which arrived in Baghdad yesterday refused to comment on the gauntlet thrown down by Iraq on Thursday night. Hamed Youssef Hammadi, the information minister, said government ministries contained nothing related to the UN programme to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and any attempt to search them would be politically motivated.

The team is the first to be led by a Russian, Nikita Smidovich, in accord with UN agreement with Baghdad last month to reduce the dominance of American experts, whom Iraq had accused of being spies. Mr Smidovich insisted that his appointment was not dictated by the Iraqis, and diplomats pointed out that a team leader from Russia, formerly Saddam's main arms supplier, was a clear sign that Moscow was now fully behind Washington's drive to pull Iraq's teeth. He said his mission would centre on the hunt for scores of unaccounted-for Scud missiles, but would also try to unearth missing details in Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons programmes.

In Moscow, a senior official said Russia might send warships to the Gulf to join in possible international action against Iraq. Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, chief of the Russian general staff, told Tass several combat vessels were ready to head to the Gulf, but the final decision belonged to President Yeltsin, the commander-in-chief.



Saddam: inclining to son's hardline faction

certainly claim a victory now if this United Nations team does not try to search any government buildings."

In Washington, Mr Bush said he was uncertain whether Saddam was just blustering when his government announced on Thursday that it would not permit the inspection of Iraqi ministries, or whether he was indeed bent on further confrontation. Either way "they're going to comply — I'm absolutely certain of that", Mr Bush said.

The president added: "We will continue to demand full compliance with all [UN] resolutions... we will speak with the measured confidence of a nation and a community of nations that is totally dedicated to seeing every single one of these UN resolutions fully



Country matters: Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, petting a cow at a fair in Clayton County, Iowa. The campaign caravan of the Arkansas governor moved through the state before ending a tour of Midwestern farm communities in LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Congress approves aid bill to save Russian democracy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER four decades in which the US House of Representatives approved thousands of billions of dollars to combat communism around the world, it has finally approved a multibillion-dollar aid package for Russia.

By 255 votes to 164 on Thursday night, the House approved the Freedom Support Act whose proponents, employing a certain hyperbole, compared it to the Marshall Plan that promoted Europe's recovery after the second world war. All four

living former presidents sent Congress a letter urging passage of the legislation to save Russia's fragile democracy.

President Bush had first proposed the package on April 1, urging Congress to approve it before his June summit with President Yeltsin, but it quickly became entangled in election-year politics, with congressmen terrified of being seen putting foreign aid before America's pressing domestic needs. The Senate approved the bill by 76-20 shortly after Mr Yeltsin's impassioned ad-

dress to Congress, but House Democratic leaders delayed a vote until they had extracted promises from the administration for greater spending on domestic public works projects and the inner cities.

The legislation provides for a \$12 billion (\$6.25 billion) increase in America's commitment to the International Monetary Fund, which is leading the West's efforts to transform Russia from communism to capitalism, up to \$3 billion towards an international, trouble stabilisation fund, and \$1.2 billion in direct economic, humanitarian and disarmament assistance. It also removes Cold War barriers to US loans and commerce with Russia.

Richard Gephardt, the Democratic House leader, called the bill "an investment in the peace and prosperity of the American people". Newt Gingrich, the Republican whip, said it was "as important a vote as any of us will ever cast", arguing that Hitler's rise might have been forestalled had America been more helpful to the Weimar republic in the 1920s.

There were dissenters. Maxine Waters, a Democrat, pointed out that her congressional district in Los Angeles was engulfed in flames and riots only ten weeks ago. "I don't know how we can do this for Russia or anyone else and continue to ignore our cities," she said. This week the IMF approved an inaugural \$1.2 billion in credits for Russia and the World Bank announced its first \$600 million loan.

● Tokyo: Japan will extend \$700 million in export insurance for Russia. Kozo Watanabe, the trade minister, said yesterday, releasing the first tranche of \$1.8 billion in credits for Moscow. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 11

Envoys push for end to Haiti deadlock

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

EFFORTS to end the deadlock in Haiti after a military coup ten months ago may be close to a breakthrough. But hopes for a return to power by Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the ousted president, remain slim as pressure mounts on the exiled priest to accept the provisional government functioning in his place.

João Baena Soares, the secretary-general of the Organisation of American States, plans to visit the capital, Port-au-Prince, soon to meet Marc Bazin, the prime minister, and General Raoul Cedras, the coup leader, to try to arrange a meeting between Mr Bazin and Father Aristide.

Time appears to be running out for Father Aristide. He has come under pressure from the United States to accept a compromise. He has refused to meet Mr Bazin and has demanded an unconditional return to power.

Last month Lawrence Eagleburger, the US deputy Secretary of State, met Father

Aristide in Washington to warn him that American support for an international economic embargo against Haiti could not be sustained.

Supporters of Father Aristide feel betrayed and claim that the US has never tried hard enough to force the military to accept his return. They say his advocacy of socialism and his defence of the poor, black majority, was never popular in Washington.

Mr Bazin's reputation as a technocrat has won him many friends in Washington and his choice of a skilled cabinet has impressed even his detractors. The US is also concerned that the longer the problem remains unresolved, the greater the chance of a more refugees heading for Miami.

"The situation has changed substantially from when the embargo was imposed," said a former US government official. "Aristide must meet Bazin. Bazin is the only one who can deliver the military to the negotiating table."

Time runs out in the paper chase

Buyers and unions are haggling over a deal for America's troubled tabloid, Ben Macintyre writes from New York

THE complex six-month drama surrounding the purchase of the New York newspaper the *Daily News*, once the best-selling daily paper in America, has reached its final act with little sign of which out of the three principal contenders will emerge the victor, or whether the paper will even survive.

After the death of Robert Maxwell, its former owner, and the collapse of his publishing empire, the *Daily News* sought bankruptcy protection last December. It has since borrowed \$10 million, (\$52 million) and faces more than \$400 million in claims.

On Thursday Tina Brown, the federal bankruptcy judge, told the competing buyers and the paper's unions: "You are teetering on the brink of a very large precipice unless you are able to make a great deal of progress in the next several days. She gave negotiators just one more week to come up with a solution.

The main contenders in the battle to buy the newspaper are Conrad Black, the Canadian newspaper tycoon and owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, and Mortimer Zuckerman, a New York real estate developer and owner of the news magazine *US News and World Report*. Both have entered into byzantine negotiations and alliances with the paper's ten unions, each of which is trying to carve out an attractive deal for its members.

So far, the Newspaper Guild, representing news, advertising and clerical workers, favours Mr Black while the pressmen and drivers' unions prefer Mr Zuckerman. A third option, if neither of these two suits can win over the three unions, is a plan in



Gold rush: creditors are owed \$400 million

which outside investors, led by Silver Screen Entertainment, a New York film production company, would put up money for a half-share in the paper (in exchange for union concessions) while the unions would own the other half. The profits would then be divided.

On Wednesday night it appeared that the newspaper's management was poised to accept Mr Black's offer valued at \$75 million. After last minute manoeuvring by Mr Zuckerman and the unions, the deal fell through over a clause in which Mr Black was guaranteed \$1.5 million in expenses, even if he was not the eventual buyer.

All parties know that time is fast running out. By the end of next week, if there is still no agreement, the Federal Bankruptcy court is expected to impose a solution that the unions will have to accept. Their only alternative is to strike. A strike at the already embattled newspaper would almost certainly prove fatal.

Chemical arms pact agreed

Geneva: The 39-nation Conference on Disarmament yesterday produced the final draft of a treaty to ban chemical weapons, ending 24 years of negotiations.

"This is the end of the substantive talks," said a senior American negotiator. "Now it's a question of procedure." He said that the first step would be to see which countries immediately approve the compromise text.

Still more countries will be able to announce their acceptance when the committee on chemical weapons meets again on August 26 to start the process of reporting the treaty to the United Nations General Assembly. The accord will go into effect when at least 65 nations have signed. It would eliminate chemical weapons over ten years and would provide for inspections to make sure that no country cheats. (AP)

Bans reviewed

New York: Vladimir Petrovsky, a senior United Nations official, will visit Libya to discuss Tripoli's refusal to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing. The talks will coincide with the UN security council review of air and arms sanctions on Libya.

Trial delayed

Washington: A federal judge delayed until January 5 the Iran-Contra trial of Caspar Weinberger, the former defence secretary, who faces five criminal charges stemming from the Reagan-era scandal. The trial had been set for November 2. (Reuters)

Act fails gays

Ottawa: A court has ruled that the Canadian Human Rights Act is unconstitutional because it fails to protect gay men and lesbians from being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, opening the way to fight for sexual rights. (AP)

Silence broken

Peking: Chinese "comfort women" forced into prostitution by Japan during the second world war have broken a 47-year silence and asked Tokyo for compensation. The issue may affect a visit by Emperor Akihito expected in October. (AFP)

Convicts freed

Bangkok: Thailand will release 25,000 convicts to mark Queen Sirikit's 60th birthday. But the British embassy said Karyn Smith and Patricia Cahill, two Britons jailed for heroin trafficking, were not in the categories covered by the amnesty. (Reuters)

Gangsters quit

Tokyo: Police say hundreds of gangsters, hard hit by a new anti-crime law, are beginning to desert their gangs. Membership of a *yakuza* is regarded as a lifetime affair and police have already prosecuted 180 gang bosses for attacks on defectors. (Reuters)

Jockeys barred

Delhi: India said it would introduce a law banning the export of children to Gulf emirates where they are used as jockeys in camel races. R. L. Bhatia, minister for external affairs, said 20 children had been rescued so far. (Reuters)

Marcos currency violation case is thrown out by Manila judge

The former Philippine first lady, Imelda Marcos, declared herself vindicated yesterday by a Manila judge's decision to throw out one of more than 80 court cases she faces. "With this decision today of the court, I am confident that eventually what is right is going to prevail," she said after one currency violation charge was dismissed.

The wife of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos said the verdict echoed her acquittal on racketeering charges in New York last year. However, Mrs Marcos, 63, still faces 85 civil and criminal charges of helping her husband plunder \$2.6 billion from the nation during his 20-year rule. The judge, David Nolasco, said that the case was thrown out yesterday because central bank rules on taking money out of the country were not in force when the breach allegedly occurred.

About 2,000 New Zealanders packed Auckland City Hall for the funeral service of the

former prime minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, 70. Members of the Maori Black Power, a feared motorcycle gang, performed an unscheduled haka war cry from the back of the hall as a sign of respect.

The popularity of Romania's president, Ion Iliescu, has hit a new low, according to a poll in the independent daily *Tineretul Liber*, with 57 per cent having no confidence in him and 12 per cent little confidence.

Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, 62, who stepped down as Spanish foreign minister in June after seven years in the post, has died of cancer at his Madrid home.

Harold Russell, 78, a handicapped former US Army instructor who won an Oscar for his 1946 performance as a handless sailor in *The Best*

Years of Our Lives, sold one of his two Oscars at auction for \$31,000 in New York to pay for an eye operation for his wife, despite an appeal from the actor Karl Malden, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, to keep it and accept a loan.

Helena Lisandrillo, 31, a nightclub singer, has filed a paternity suit in Los Angeles against the actor Robert De Niro, alleging that he is the father of her ten-year-old daughter. His publicist, Stan Rosenfield, said that the suit was "absurd and totally without foundation".

The drummer Jeff Porcaro, 38, co-founder of the Grammy Award-winning rock band Toto, died of a heart attack in Los Angeles after collapsing while spraying pesticides in a garden. Doctors believe that his heart attack may have been triggered by an allergic reaction to the chemicals.

Barcelona braced for the post-fiesta hangover

THE 25th Olympics close tomorrow night the way they began, with riotous spectacle, opera and fireworks and then the world's biggest rumba party, a stadium dance for all the athletes.

Though anything is still possible in the final hours, the Games are already being hailed by the organisers and the people of Barcelona as an astonishing success, an event that has transcended sport, put Spain and Catalonia on the map, and helped efface the country's traditional image as the backward getaway for sun, sex and sangria.

But now, they acknowledge, they are in for a hangover, a time of austerity and bill-paying for a costly fiesta whose magic carried away even the city's least sports-minded sceptics.

"Socially, politically, we have never known such a state of grace," says Pasqual Maragall, the mayor and local Olympic boss, whose lyrical mood reflects the euphoria and relief among the often bickering local political leaders. Some admit surprise that nothing serious went wrong, that for the first time

for decades no terrorist act, no political row, no scandal or serious organisational hitches beset the Games. The city, said the main newspaper *Vanguardia* yesterday, had "offered the world an unprecedented spectacle of a Barcelona alive, pulsing with attractiveness, happiness, civility and enthusiasm".

Spanish pride was boosted by a haul of medals — 18 so far — not far from the total of 26 which its athletes had won in all previous Games. The Games also benefited from the most elaborate security operation ever imposed on a city. Though they are not yet counting their chickens, the police say they believe that the terrorists of the Eta Basque separatist movement had simply lacked the resources to stage the kind of attention-getting incident it had promised.

The arrest this week in France of Faustino Villaverde, the Eta leader known as Tampi, demonstrated that the authorities had not, as widely rumoured, entered into secret negotiations as the price of an Eta truce, the press said yesterday.

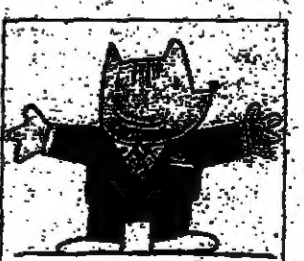
In the bars of the old city, the intellectual crowd were almost as grateful that their worst predictions had not materialised. For all the philistinism of the big-business Games, Barcelona had managed to convey something of its eccentric, playful and stylish Catalan flavour to replace flamenco and matadors as the foreigners' image.

Edoardo Mendoza, a celebrated local novelist, abandoned his scepticism and confessed that he had been deeply moved. "Barcelona has been completely transformed... the Games have demonstrated both the Catalans' efficiency and their need to dream." Another

writer yesterday contrasted what he said was Barcelona's glory with the emptiness, as he put it, of Madrid's pretension to the title of European city of culture.

While 1992 may have been a year of magic and celebration of Spain's brilliant return from the "black legend" of its long decline and the Franco years, the festivities have compounded anxiety about the economy and added to the *desencanto* (disenchantment) that has set in after the fast-growing, high-spending 1980s.

Apart from the city's huge infrastructure projects, the government of Felipe González put £1.3 billion into the



Success symbol: Cobi, the Games logo

Games, while the Catalan state contributed £300 million, figures which come down to £270 per taxpayer.

With sponsorship and attendance only slightly lower than expected, the city may break even on the straight organisation of the Games. Already, owners of medium-sized restaurants and taxi drivers are complaining that they did not enjoy the windfall which had been predicted for them.

Also worrying for the economy, the head of the Seville Expo, which has more than two months to run, admitted that the £2.5 billion fair is losing money and had so far attracted visitors at only two-thirds the expected rate.

Señor González, still relatively popular despite a decade in office, acknowledged this week that "Spain is in for a difficult time". His opponents are putting it more bluntly. "Spain is ailing," said José María Aznar, head of the conservative Popular party. "A climate of anxiety has taken hold."

Events, results, pp 28,29,32

Red Cross caught in the crossfire of suffering

World pressure is mounting on the Red Cross to condemn the horrors of the Bosnian detention camps, even though it must be seen to be even-handed, Michael Binyon writes

THE International Committee of the Red Cross, the only international humanitarian organisation that has worked in Yugoslavia since the start of the conflict, has encountered enormous difficulties and frustration in its work in Bosnia.

Although its staff have been fired on, and one has been killed, they have nevertheless managed to visit ten detention camps with 4,200 inmates, under the control of all three ethnic groups. Their findings, likely to be explosive, will never be published, however. "We are not a commission of enquiry: we are attempting only to give protection and assistance to the victims," said Pierre Gauthier, the ICRC's press officer in Geneva. All visits are made with the agreement of those running

the camps, and the Red Cross discusses the findings only with the authorities who are able to improve conditions.

Nevertheless, the organisation faces what Mr Gauthier called enormous difficulties in Bosnia. The first is deciding where to go. The Red Cross has received a mass of conflicting information and rumours, all of which must be sifted and filed. Then there is the physical difficulty of going to places where the civil war is raging. "It would just be suicide," he said. Even when the inspection team gets permission to visit a camp from the Serbian, Muslim or Croatian authorities, this is not always respected by commanders in the area.

The Red Cross insists on a full inspection of each camp, including all rooms and

places where prisoners are kept. It also demands the right for a private interview with any prisoner who wants to speak, with no guards present. All complaints are then passed back to the detaining authorities. The Red Cross also demands the right to visit the camp again later to see whether any changes have been made.

It sticks rigidly to these demands. Otherwise, Mr Gauthier said, a single visit or one that did not allow full inspection would give a spurious impression that the Red Cross found the prisoners

were treated properly. Each visit takes lengthy negotiations to convince all sides that the Red Cross is neutral. In Bosnia the inspection teams, consisting of a doctor, a sanitary engineer, a chief inspector and a clerk, have been refused access to some camps where conditions are said to be very harsh. But the Red Cross insists it cannot force its way into suspected detention centres, and has to rely on outside pressure to allow access.

Inspectors try to persuade the camp authorities to release all those who need not be

detained: especially the old, the young, women and the sick. It tells the authorities of their duty to ensure the prisoners have enough to eat, can sleep, wash and live. "If they are not able to do that, we are sometimes involved ourselves in amelioration of conditions," Mr Gauthier said. He did not say whether the camps inspected so far had fulfilled the minimum conditions or whether the authorities had shown willingness to make improvements.

He said it was too early to say whether there had been changes in the camps visited

so far. The ICRC knows that it is under intense international pressure to speak out and condemn what it has seen, but insists that its first and only duty is to help the victims.

Other humanitarian bodies have encountered similar frustrations. Médecins sans Frontières, the French aid group, said it had given up trying to travel by road in Bosnia. "It's just not possible. We've found the only way to get teams and supplies in is by plane," Alain Devaux, of the organisation's Belgian section, said. "Three weeks ago we tried to drive from Sarajevo to Belgrade, and got just past the airport in Sarajevo. They opened up with machineguns and some of our people were injured."

● Britain's horror: Recent pictures and reports in the

media of detention camps in Bosnia, showing emaciated men staring with sunken eyes through barred wire fences, have caused the public to step up their calls to refugee organisations offering aid.

The British Red Cross said that it would be following up the photographs with advertisements in the media today asking people to give more. ITN said that people were not offering aid because they could not understand how money they donated would go to help those being kept in the camps. A spokesman said that they had a large response after the story of Michael Nicholson bringing home a child from an orphanage was shown. Save the Children, too, has recorded an increase of calls this week after the harrowing pictures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deputy is chosen by Craxi

Rome: Gianni De Michelis, the former Italian foreign minister, has been named deputy leader of the Socialist party in spite of being investigated in connection with a corruption scandal. Bettino Craxi, the party secretary, appointed him on Thursday night (John Phillips writes).

Judges in Venice have advised Signor De Michelis that he is under investigation but he has denied any involvement. There was consternation in Rome political circles yesterday at the appointment. "For the first time a politician under investigation has been rewarded," La Repubblica newspaper said.

The government yesterday won a key confidence vote on an emergency budget package aimed at stopping finances sinking further into the red.

Trial protest

Moscow: Genrikh Padva, defence lawyer for Anatoli Lukyanov, threatened to resign from the case to protest at the "political persecution" of his client, who claims he is innocent of planning the coup last year against President Gorbachev. (AP)

Post filled

Athens: Michalis Papaconstantinou, 72, a former justice minister, has become Greek foreign minister, taking over from Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, who held the post after dismissing Antonis Samaras. (Reuters)

Union sought

Bucharest: A poll of 2,000 Romanians showed 55 per cent favoured union at once with the neighbouring former Soviet republic of Moldova. Two-thirds of Moldova's 4.3 million population are ethnic Romanians. (Reuters)

Kuwait rearms

Kuwait City: Shaikh Ali Sabah al-Salem, the defence minister, says Kuwait plans to buy sophisticated arms from France again. Before the Iraqi invasion of August 1990, French supplies to the Kuwaiti armed forces included Mirage fighter jets. (AFP)

Truce ends

Ajaccio: The separatist Corsican National Liberation Front, signalling the end of a four-year truce, said that it was responsible for a series of bomb attacks carried out in Nice, Marseilles, Paris and Sardinia, in which nobody was injured. (AP)

Sudan accused

Cairo: Yusef Waly, the secretary-general of Egypt's ruling National Democratic party, has accused Sudan and Iran of smuggling weapons into the country and setting up camps to train Muslim militants to destabilise the country. (Reuters)

Concert agreed

Warsaw: An Israeli rock group has received permission for a concert about half-a-mile from the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, authorities said. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre said that the decision was "grotesque". (AP)

Yugoslav rhetoric disappoints critics

Bush faces renewed 'wimp factor' taunt

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Bush, declaring that the genocide and concentration camps of the second world war must not be repeated, pledged yesterday that he would not rest until access had been gained to all the detention camps in the former Yugoslavia. But he again resisted calls for wider military intervention beyond that required to protect humanitarian relief efforts.

"I do not want to see the US bogged down in any way into some guerrilla warfare," said Mr Bush, recalling Vietnam. "There's a lot of voices out there in the United States today that say use force, but they don't have the responsi-

bility for sending someone else's son or daughter in harm's way. I do."

Mr Bush was speaking at his second press conference in two days on the Yugoslav civil war, both hastily convened to counter the growing perception of an administration paralysed in the face of the appalling scenes being broadcast nightly on American television news. Mr Bush made no new announcements yesterday but sought to compensate with strong rhetoric. "The world cannot shed its horror at the prospect of concentration camps," he said. "The shocking brutality of genocide in world war two are burning

memories for all of us, and that can't happen again."

Already fighting for his political life, the Balkan war has served only to intensify Mr Bush's re-election problems. He knows public support for military intervention would evaporate if Americans came home in bodybags, and key allies, including Britain, are even more reluctant to use force. But the detention camp scenes have inflamed public and political opinion to a level where continued reliance on diplomatic initiatives has become impossible.

The "wimp" factor, which Mr Bush was supposed to have laid to rest in Panama and Kuwait, has returned to haunt him, and his one big advantage over Bill Clinton — his command of foreign policy — is being threatened.

On Thursday Mr Bush threw his full weight behind the idea of military force to ensure humanitarian relief, but in yesterday's press he was widely portrayed as having been forced to do so by overwhelming pressure from a variety of sources including Baronesse Thatcher, who in a New York Times article that morning had urged selective bombing.

Mr Bush had "crept reluctantly to the verge of a military commitment", the same paper reported yesterday. The columnist Anthony Lewis, recalling how Lady Thatcher steered Mr Bush on the day Iraq invaded Kuwait, suggested she still had "an important psychological hold on Mr Bush" because "more than anyone else she seems to touch in him the fear of being regarded as a wimp".

Mr Clinton called the president's announcement on Thursday a "step in the right direction" but argues that air strikes may be required to "restore the basic conditions of humanity". A bipartisan group of senators including Robert Dole, the Republican Senate leader, favours military intervention to secure access to the detention camps.

Mr Bush denied that he was being influenced by electoral considerations, but he appears in need of the sensitive political antennae of James Baker, the Secretary of State, who is on holiday in Wyoming.

In Belgrade, Dobrica Vucovic, the deputy minister of information, criticised the West for using innocent victims of the war to further their own political ambitions. He also claimed that international sanctions were delaying or blocking aid to 500,000 civilian refugees in Serbia.

Hurd's plea, page 1
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Letters, page 11



Death watch: A Serb soldier looks out from a ruined building during a lull in fighting in the eastern Bosnian town of Gorazde. Reports of atrocities have prompted many in the West to call for military intervention

Pope seems ready to back use of force

BY PHILIP PULLELLA OF REUTER IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CARDINAL Angelo Sodano, the Vatican Secretary of State, has suggested that the Pope would support military intervention to stop atrocities in Bosnia, where United Nations peacekeepers came under attack yesterday.

Two mortar attacks hit their headquarters in Sarajevo over night and seriously wounded a French soldier. "This was a

direct attack on the United Nations," Mik Magnusson, the UN spokesman, said. "It was unquestionably intentional." In Rome, Cardinal Sodano, second only to the Pope in the Roman Catholic hierarchy, said: "The Pope welcomes all the initiatives taken by the United Nations and the European states to put a brake on the horrendous war

which is being fought in Bosnia." The statement signals a dramatic hardening of the Vatican position. He said the Holy See believed that foreign powers had a right to intervene to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian aid.

"I would say the UN and the European nations have the duty and the right to intervene to disarm those who want to kill," Cardinal Sodano said. "This is not favouring war but an attempt to prevent it." While he did not use the term military intervention, he added: "There is a need to make public opinion reflect on the duty to hold back the hand of the aggressor."

In a statement yesterday, issued after Cardinal Sodano's comments received wide media cover in Italy, the Vatican said the Pope was "particularly pained" by killings and brutality against defenceless women and children. The pontiff felt anguish at the "confirmation of the existence of concentration camps" and mass deportations.

In Belgrade, a senior Yugoslav army officer said that foreign military intervention in Bosnia could spread war to other parts of Europe. Ljubodrag Stojadinovic, the army's official spokesman, said: "Any foreign intervention in Bosnia would be irrational from a military, strategic and political point of

view. It could spark fighting elsewhere in the Balkans and Europe." In Geneva, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said that the northwestern Bosnian province of Bihać could soon become "another Sarajevo", the Bosnian capital where 400,000 people have been trapped by a four-month Serbian siege.



Panic pledges to close camps

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BUDAPEST

AS REVULSION spread around the world in the wake of television footage of the horrific conditions in Serb-run detention camps in Bosnia, Milan Panic, prime minister of Yugoslavia, yesterday said he would order Serb leaders in Bosnia to close the camps.

Mr Panic, responding to the graphic descriptions of the harsh regimes at the camps and repeated allegations of beatings, rape and killing of civilians across war-ravaged Bosnia, said: "The camps will have to be dismantled. I give myself 30 days to do so." But he added that Bosnian Muslims were holding Serbs in camps that would also have to be dismantled.

When the film of gaunt prisoners in the Serb-run camp of Omarska, shot by ITN, was described to Mr Panic, he said: "If that is true it simply has to be stopped." He said he would demand that Radovan Karadzic, leader of Bosnia's Serbs, close down the detention camps or resign. The Bosnian government earlier this week released a list of 100 alleged Serb-run detention centres and camps, including a site in Subotica, which Mr Panic visited on Thursday.

Mr Panic told reporters in Budapest, where he was signing an agreement with Franjo Greguric, the Croatian prime minister, on the exchange of more than 1,100 prisoners of war, that he had visited two camps, at a military base and another at the town of Subotica, near the Hungarian border. But neither, he said, could be described as a concentration camp.

"Yes, these were camps, but they were not concentration camps. They were refugee

camp. Croats and Muslims live there. The people that live in Subotica have a similar quality of life to what we had in Germany when I was a refugee. It's not a picnic but the basics like beds and food are provided. I'm not sure they have enough medicine and I think that hygiene could be better," he said.

There must be doubts whether Mr Panic has the political clout necessary to close down the Serb-run camps in Bosnia. When he was pressed on the question of conditions in the camps he became visibly flustered. Asked about the Omarska camp, where in scenes chillingly reminiscent of the second world war, hungry inmates peer out from behind barbed wire, he replied: "Now stop that. I'm talking about Yugoslavia and I'm in charge of Yugoslavia. I cannot correct Croatia or Cambodia."

But he promised he would work for the release of any detainees who were being ill-treated. In civil war you always have mistreatments, he said.



Panic: became visibly flustered by questions

Suffering in Yugoslavia fails to touch Russian hearts

Russians are too busy with their own problems to worry about Yugoslavia, Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow

AS WESTERN minds focus with horror on the bloodshed in Yugoslavia and debate military intervention, Russia remains indifferent to the suffering of a land which once prided itself on its political equidistance from East and West.

Russian and Commonwealth television news programmes concentrate on domestic news. The attention given even to trouble spots nearer home, like Nagorno-Karabakh and Moldova, is being overtaken by traditional summer concerns: the harvest and the economy.

Russian viewers have been given no more than a fleeting

glimpse of the fighting in Sarajevo, all of it courtesy of foreign television companies. Allegations about Serbian death camps have caused not a stir. The official Tass news agency's only report in the past 24 hours related to a telephone conversation between Yegor Gaidar, Russia's acting prime minister, and his Greek counterpart, explaining Russia's official recognition of Macedonia.

Tass also reported Margaret Thatcher's call for military intervention if Serbia ignored the West's demands.

In the more outward-looking newspapers short dispatches from Bonn, Paris or London report aspects of the intervention debate, but there is no discussion and no reference to Russia.

The self-absorption that prevails in today's Russia is probably not the only reason

for reticence in Moscow. The lack of media coverage is explained in part by the disappearance early in the conflict of two Russian television journalists. Neither they nor their bodies have been found, but the widespread suspicion is that they were abducted because they were Russian. Covering a war is not only dangerous, but also costly and Russian media organisations have little money to spare.

There may also be an element of conflict-exhaustion. Russians have been battered for months with a seemingly endless torrent of news about civil wars — in

Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia, Ossetia and Moldova. There is little energy left to consider conflicts further away.

The Russian leadership also has compelling reasons for trying to divert attention away from Yugoslavia. Russia's "special relationship" with Serbia — deriving from the bond of orthodoxy — is a favoured cause of the nationalist opposition to President Yeltsin. It is a special relationship that Russia has effectively forsworn (the opposition would say "betrayed") by joining UN sanctions against Serbia and sending troops to join the

UN peacekeeping force. How controversial the sanctions issue was became apparent when an opposition newspaper, *Den*, published a leaked telegram from the Russian foreign minister to the US Secretary of State, implying that western pressure, including financial pressure, had given Russia no choice but to vote for sanctions. Its publication elicited a furious condemnation (but no denial) from the Russian foreign ministry, and allowed the opposition to revel in "evidence" that Russian government policy was being directed by western money.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH2
CLIMBING A TRADITION INTO THE FUTURE

Clifford Longley

RE teachers must not fear charges of indoctrination

The distinguished clerical visitor, wishing to satisfy himself as to the schoolchildren's knowledge of Scripture, asked the class what their favourite Bible story was. Up went a hand, from an eager lad at the back. "About Jesus, Sir," he said. "About when Jesus was found in the bulrushes." This story was going the rounds 20 years ago. It raised eyebrows then, of a "what have we come to?" kind. Today it is utterly implausible. Tell it to a staffroom of young teachers and they would not even get the joke. By and large state schools long ago abandoned the study of Scripture. By and large modern pupils (and their teachers, too) could not state a single coherent thing about Jesus, Moses and the bulrushes might have been on another planet.

Successful secretaries of state for education have presided over the gradual creation of this spiritual desert, while uttering their empty platitudes in support of religious education and church schools. None has shown much inclination to stop the rot — not even those, like Shirley Williams or Margaret Thatcher, whose adherence to a religious faith was more than nominal. Most of them probably shared the anti-religious prejudice of the age. Until the appointment of John Patten. He is religious, and aggressive with it. When he says he is keen on religious education and church schools he seems to mean it.

Far from being embarrassed by the need to say such things, there is even a little fervour in him. The RE professionals will be more embarrassed by this commitment than he is. They have had to justify their place in a liberal, secular, agnostic educational framework, and distance themselves as far as possible from any charge of indoctrination. As a result RE took flight. But as it disengaged from its subject, so also it disengaged from the attention and interest of its students. Paradoxically, while dogma runs rife in the classroom in history or science, it is banished from the one sphere in which it properly belongs. So however else religion was to be taught, it was not to be taught as true nor as potentially attractive. Thus was paraded past bored classrooms, in the name of encouraging good race relations, a potted caricature of each of the many faiths, with most attention naturally to their rude and weird bits. And putting lots of them together helped them cancel each other out. So this was not indoctrination. Nothing is less appealing than other people's religious beliefs and rituals viewed coldly from without, one after another. It makes them as incomprehensible, and as risible, as the tone deaf teaching the theory of music to the tone deaf. And how telling a skinhead a few facts about Islam was supposed to make him less likely to bash a Pakistani was never explained.

Capital projects in church schools are now Mr Patten's top spending priority, he told the Catholic Education Conference last month. Church schools which opt to be grant-maintained will for the first time be 100 per cent state funded, which will put an irresistible temptation in the way of heavily overdrawn diocesan education boards and committees. A new education bill will strengthen the RE clauses in the 1988 Education Reform Act. This week a consultation paper was published by Mr Patten's department, prior to framing this legislation.

The more school expansion is driven by parental choice, the more church schools are likely to be preferred. They already make up a fifth of all schools. It is not impossible to imagine them taking a quarter or more of all pupils. If, like Anglican schools, Catholic ones became less denominationally selective, they would expand all the faster. Both types of school offer what parents seem to want above all, good manners. The sooner the RE and church schools industry realises that its long, exhausting retreat from the high ground of 1944 is over, the better and more effective it will be. Already RE curriculum development is putting on new spiritual and intellectual weight, after a long period of starvation. The key task is to reconstruct an approach to RE that spreads a sympathetic understanding of religion, together with cultivating some affectionate familiarity of the basic shape of Christianity. This contradicts no professional educational principle. Any teacher who does not include imparting a love of his subject is no educator. For too long, RE teachers thought they — they alone — were not allowed to do this, in the name of avoiding the charge of "indoctrination". Their anxiety was always groundless. To indoctrinate means, simply, to teach. Let them indoctrinate.

Germany cannot forget its history when responding to atrocities in Bosnia, says Mark Almond

Echoes of the Holocaust

slavia. Backed up by the Foreign Office's suave advocates of inaction this effectively pro-Serb lobby says that today's Germany has reverted to its aggressive and imperialist policies of 60 years ago and is seeking hegemony over the old Yugoslavia. The unlikely counterpart of Hitler or Bismarck in this scenario is Chancellor Helmut Kohl who is supposed to have bullied his European Community partners into recognising Slovenia, Croatia and then Bosnia as independent but de facto German satellite states. In practice Chancellor Kohl's government was pushed from below by German public opinion to break ranks when the Community's policy seemed bafflingly indifferent to the reality of the sufferings visible to any television viewer.

Today in Germany the political battlelines of intervention in Bosnia are clear: they are between those who say that of all countries Germany cannot stand aside and see the mass

deportation of civilians, old and young alike, in cattle trucks to be "rescued", as the Nazi euphemism had it the 1940s, and as some Serbs would have it again. Others, equally morally outraged, argue that the children of Hitler's conquerors of Yugoslavia in 1941 and of the organisers of the Holocaust should be the last people to throw their moral weight about and intervene on their old battlefields.

Modern Germany is a profoundly post-military society and it is not just political calculation — the desire to frustrate the governing right-wing — which has caused the Social Democrats to resist military intervention in Yugoslavia and to appeal to the German Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of Chancellor Kohl's decision to send a destroyer to join the UN arms blockade in the Adriatic. The excitement that the dispatch of a warship to a zone so remote

from any likely fighting has aroused on the German left is evidence of how deep its instinctive resistance to the use of German force goes — even on the side of the angels.

If the German left believes inherited guilt from the Nazi past obliges Germany to refrain from military action, then the right sees intervention to protect the rights of the underdog as proof positive that a new Germany has come into existence. For them, the sight of German forces preventing mass deportations and aggressive conquest would be the very antithesis of the old imperialist Germany.

Whatever their disagreements about what sort of action the German government should take in face of the evermore concrete news of the atrocities by Serbian forces in Bosnia, the German press presents a common picture. From conservative papers like *Die Welt* or the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* to the liberal, Munich-based

Süddeutsche Zeitung, there is general agreement that the responsibility for the terrible events in former Yugoslavia should be laid at the door of the Serbian government. There is also a shared resentment that German moral outrage should be portrayed by do-nothings elsewhere in Europe as a cover for revived expansionist ambitions.

As the German press demands either military intervention or effective humanitarian aid, German diplomats, and perhaps even foreign minister Klaus Kinkel, are coming closer to advocating the lifting of the UN arms embargo, which is hurting Bosnia far more than Serbia. They may well do so if no effective UN intervention to restore peace and ensure human rights is forthcoming. The passivity of the two EC permanent members of the Security Council, Britain and France has also encouraged German calls for its own seat, or at least for a share

of influence, on the Security Council.

Unlike some of their neighbours Germans are only too well aware of the dangers of encouraging refugees to "stay close to their homes". Germans know full well what the closed door policy of many states meant to would-be Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany in the 1930s: it did not facilitate their return home, but transport to their deaths. Thus, even though it is already burning at the seams with refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world (more than a third of a million entered this year alone) by tomorrow evening Germany will have taken another 5,000 Bosnian refugees. That is five times more than Britain has taken.

The Nazis had a cynical joke: Chamberlain took a weekend in the country while Hitler took a country in a weekend. Today the Germans have a right to feel that their country is doing more for destitute humanity in a weekend than on present form Britain is likely to do all year.

Mark Almond is a Fellow of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, London.

The prophet of revolution

Shelley's remarkable belief in the power of poetry to effect social change is the secret of his lasting appeal, writes Judith Chernaik

A strange and wonderful array of celebrations is marking the bicentenary of Shelley's birth which fell this week, including an early morning phone-in on Radio Sussex (the great poet was born near Hove, and was banned from the ancestral home because of his atheism), and an evening on "Shelley and India" at the Nehru Centre, India House. The latter featured recitations of *Ode to the West Wind* and *The Cloud*, and a superb talk by the poet Kathleen Raine about Shelley's affinities with Indian mysticism. Shelley's fable of liberation, *Prometheus Unbound*, is set in the Indian Caucasus — a place, Dr Raine suggested, which could exist only in the imagination, since it cannot be found on any map.

But the courage and endurance which Shelley's *Prometheus* exemplifies are not of a particular place or time:

To suffer woes which Hope thinks infinite;
To forgive wrongs darker than
death or night;
To defy Power, which seems
omnipotent;
To love, and bear: to Hope till
Hope creates
From its own wreck the thing it
contemplates:
Neither to change, nor falter, nor
repent;
This, like thy glory, Titan, is
to be
Good, great and joyous, beautiful
and free;
This is alone Life, Joy, Empire, and
Victory.

Reading these elegant lines with their ironic reference to the Empire and Victory which still constitute the "glory" of nations, it is hard to understand the bafflement which Shelley in-

duced in a sophisticated reader like F.R. Leavis, or T.S. Eliot's snobbish dismissal of Shelley's ideas as "repellent".

Far from being repellent or obscure, his ideas were so far in advance of his age that they still represent an unattainable ideal, a Promethean vision of men and women as "Equal, undressed, tribesless, and nationless". True, he was a rebel, and a free thinker. He attacked Christianity because of the carnage committed in its name, and because he could not reconcile the idea of a loving Creator with the doctrines of original sin and damnation.

"Let us believe in a kind of optimism in which we are our own gods," he wrote to his friend Maria Gisborne, "because Hope, as Coleridge says, is a solemn duty which we owe alike to ourselves and to the world." He took this solemn duty very seriously, and his poetry argued against the despair which in his age, as again in ours, seemed to follow every revolutionary upheaval, each brief glimpse of the vanishing form of Liberty.

Among the Shelley conferences around world this year, the most unlikely is scheduled for Pretoria, where South African Shelley scholars have taken as their theme a passage from his *Defence of Poetry*: "The most unfailing herald, companion or follower of the awakening of a great people to a beneficial change in opinion or institution, is Poetry."

This remarkable claim for poetry for the power of imagination to bring about social change — explains Shelley's appeal to readers as disparate as Browning and Baudelaire, Karl Marx and Gandhi, the visionary



Swept by the passions of his time: yet 200 years after his birth Shelley's vision still inspires

Years and the socialist Shaw. Shelley saw himself as participating in a great movement of thought, produced in response to the French Revolution and the unprecedented hopes it generated. He believed that the poet — the prophet and "seer" who

sees into the hidden currents of his time more acutely than his fellows — has a special obligation "to make the best of ill", to argue against despondency. This is the element in Shelley which speaks so directly to readers across Europe and be-

yond, where tribalism seems to be reasserting itself with unimaginable ferocity — and also in the privileged West, where inequality and its attendant misery has re-established itself as the norm. It has always been possible to

read Shelley either as a prophet of revolution or an apostle of reform, a visionary who welcomes the apocalypse, the violent destruction of the "sleeping regimes" along the Mediterranean, or an earnest advocate of non-violence. Shelley gave expression to both views, probably because he too was swept by the passions of his time and by their contradictions; and because he was a poet, not a political reformer.

At the heart of his poetry is a vision that transcends politics, a longing for "love and beauty and delight", a drive towards erotic mysteries of desire and consummation — and this aspect of Shelley also speaks directly to the modern sensibility. A reader who is not caught up in the sweep and power of his greatest poetry, *Ode to the West Wind* or *Adonais*, or his rhapsodic defence of free love, *Epipsychion*, must be immune to the seductive call of eros, deaf to the solicitations of "That Beauty in which all things work and move."

One year before he was drowned in the Bay of Spezia, just short of his 30th birthday, he wrote his own epitaph. The final stanza of *Adonais*, his elegy for Keats, who had just died in Rome, aged 25, tells us all we know or need to know about both poets:

The breath whose might I have
invoked in song
Descends on me: my spirit's bark is
driven,
Far from the shore, far from the
trembling throng
Whose sails were never to the
tempest given:
The massy earth and spheroid skies
are rent!
I am borne darkly, fearfully,
afar:
Whirl, burning through the
inner veil of Heaven,
The soul of Adonais, like a star,
Beacons from the abode where the
Eternal are.

Judith Chernaik's novel about the Shelley circle, *Mab's Daughters*, has just been published by Pan at £5.99.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Names of plants are among the oldest words in the world. The first things that settlers in a new land have to name are the new plants, as you can see from the early Australian and American word-lists. Etymology suggests that languages, which usually start in farming and hunting communities, need names for plants before they get round to naming less necessary things, such as politicians or journalists. Plant nomenclature is a second jungle, because the same plant often has a different name in each different country, county and even village. This is admirable for the richness of language, but less wonderful for communication between villages. So it is a green-letter year for understanding plants because of the publication of *The New Royal Horticultural Dictionary of Gardening*, the definitive bible for serious gardening students.

It is a giant work: four vols, three million words, entries for 50,000 plants, more than 250 contributors who are the choice and master/mistress gardeners, botanists and taxonomists of our age. This prodigious book is of entertainment and use even for those of us who regard gardening as a slug's game, having spent too many hours as children weeding charlock from wheat by hand, and who have brown thumbs, so that every green thing we touch withers. It is the kind of big book that the British still do better than anyone else in the world, and a

treasure for logophiles as well as diggers and weeders. But, of course, it scratches only the surface of plant nomenclature. It is the last word for a generation on cultivars, the 20,000 or so plants that green-fingered man, in his eternal triumph of hope over greenly, tries to grow around the world, from the yam-mountains of Kiririna to the deep-freeze dwarf vegetation of Alaska. But by its remit, it deals only with garden plants, not the vast majority of weeds and other plants unselected for gardens. A weed is merely something growing in the wrong place, which no dotty gardener has yet got around to cultivating.

Let us plunge into the linguistic herbaceous border on the trail of what is called Old Man's Beard in Suffolk, where I weeded charlock, and which is beginning to whiten the hedgerows for horkey or harvest-home. I was surprised to find it in the *Horticultural Dictionary*, since I have always thought of it as weed, not plant. But there it grows, as a minor entry under the vast genus entry for Clematis. I suppose we might have guessed that clematis was first cultivated by those wizard gardeners in Japan, cultivated in Europe since the 16th century, and crossed with Chinese and European species.

The gardening dictionary is sound on the description of Old Man's Beard, for those feckless enough and with a big enough garden to try to cultivate it. But it has no room to deal with its

tangled history as weed, which stretches back many centuries through the hedges of England. They used to call it *Vilma*, which they explained, unpersuasively, as *viu ornans*, because of its habit of "decking and adorning wales and hedges". Hence one of its many modern names, *Traveler's Joy*. You can divide the villages of England between those which call it something like *Grandfather's Whiskers*, and those which call it something like *Maiden's Hair*. The Old Man or Grandfather, as often with English plant names, stands for the devil, whose Whiskers' Rope or Devil's Guts can turn an English cusp into an Amazonian jungle. But it is also named as the plant of God and the Virgin, Parkinson, in *Theatrum Botanicum* of 1640, wrote: "In English, of most country people where it groweth. Homestie, and the Gentlemen call it Love." A few years later John Aubrey reported that in Wiltshire they knew the white fluffy weed as *Maiden's Honesty*. It is Boy's Bacon and Shepherd's Delight because bad boys and shepherds smoked cigar lengths of the dry stems, which draw well and do not burst into flames.

Bertrand Russell was once asked by a young friend why he was looking so thoughtful. Russell replied: "I have made an odd discovery. Every time I talk to a philosopher I feel quite sure that happiness is no longer a possibility. Yet when I talk to my gardener, I am convinced of the opposite."

Many pennies for his thoughts

THE ELECTORATE in the constituency of Southampton Itchen will doubtless be relieved to hear that their former MP, Christopher Chope, the devoutly Thacherite transport minister, will not be unemployed for much longer. He is following a troop of ex-ministers into the City, starting work on September 1 for Ernst & Young, one of the world's largest firms of accountants and management consultants.

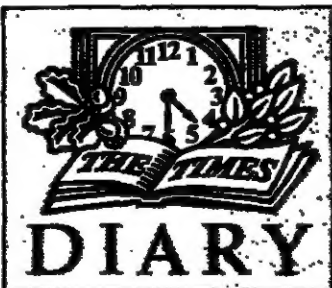
Chope will have the novel title of Thought Leadership Adviser, and will be employed two days a week on a salary larger than the £43,000 he was paid as minister. "It is true that part of it will be for my expertise in dealing with government. I will be earning a lot

Help create the filthy rich then join 'em



more money," he says, declining to say how much more. "I also have a number of other irons in the fire."

Having applied for one advertised job, Chope, a qualified barrister, says he secured the post thanks to "networking". Ernst & Young's clients can expect some novel lobbying techniques from him. Chope took his Rotweiler,



Phaedra, to his office in Whitehall in an attempt to influence the dangerous dogs legislation.

The new job could not have come at a better time for Chope, who will soon have another mouth to feed. His wife Christo, formerly his Commons secretary, is expecting their second child any day. "Christo is into an entirely different sort of labour market," says the father-to-be.

Chope is the latest in a long line of senior Tories who have landed lucrative jobs in the private sector. Francis Maude, 39, already head of privatisation at Salomon Brothers and a director of Asda has just picked up his third job, as chairman of the lobbyist's Public Policy Unit. In his spare time, Maude advised the Hongkong Bank in its successful bid for Midland.

Chope also has another reason for taking the Ernst & Young post. His office will give him a panoramic view of the Palace of Westminster. "I will be able to keep my eye on things," he says.

Fools' gold
THE creative department at Simons Palmer, the London advertising agency, could not be reached last night, after a further disaster befell its campaign for Nike sportswear at the Olympics.

Sergey Bubka, Ukraine's pole-vault world champion failed to

win a medal yesterday, making a mockery of the large hoardings around Britain showing him with the slogan: "Spanish Air Traffic Control has been notified".

At Simons Palmer Denton Clegg & Johnson, Bubka's defeat only added to a spate of disasters, including the failure of Michael Johnson, hero of another poster, to qualify for the 200 metres.

The copywriters can only hope that the runner Noureddine Morceli will save the day. "Ever heard the Algerian National Anthem? You will," promises the billboard, confidently.

● **Nuns at Westminster Cathedral** are not an unusual sight. But those who will be congregating on Sunday would not readily be welcomed into Holy Orders. The *Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*, a self-styled order of gay men whose most notable convert is film director Derek Jarman, will be picking morning services in protest at the Vatican's recent massive condoning workplace discrimination against homosexuals. Sister Bridget over Troubled Water, who will be handing out leaflets dressed in a habit, says: "We will be maintaining a vigil to show our support for Roman Catholic gay men and women." They are not expecting a blessing when they arrive.

Cup runneth over
THE PARTY to be at last night was the one held by Richard Matthews on board his yacht Crusader, at Cowes. Prior to Wednesday's Britannia Cup race, which Matthews won, the distributors of Mumm Cordon Rouge magnanimously declared that they would present the winner with his weight in champagne. They had not reckoned on Matthews winning. He weighed in on Friday night at

around 19 stone, roughly 36 magnums. Mumm had stocked up with 16 stones-worth of bubbly, and a Babberghast Nigel Coney of the champagne company was dashing round Cowes yesterday evening with a calculator, looking for three more stones-worth.

Amazing Grace

BRIAN JOHNSTON, who has eaten more birthday dinners this year than most of us eat in a decade, received a touching honour at the *Test Match Special* dinner on Thursday night. Peter Baldwin, chief executive of the Radio Authority came up with a personalised grace for the octogenarian commentator. The Rev. Patrick Forbes, a former colleague of Baldwin's, appealed to the Almighty thus:

O Lord, you'd scarcely think it wicked To give you thanks for wondrous cricket.

To celebrate the fans who make And send those lovely gifts of cake. Now shades of that great Grace attend To take guard at the gasworks end And praise with us the life of Brian Whose commentaries we all rely on. Give thanks to you, O cricket lovers, For food and wine. Remove the covers!

● Even radical political activists are susceptible to cutting remarks from their mother-in-law. Joe Slovo, the white-haired leader of the South African Communist Party, writing in the arch-capitalist *Johannesburg* paper *Business Day*, says of his mother-in-law, Tilly First, who will be 94 on Christmas Day: "Memory aside, she is in reasonable shape. One of my daughters tells me that on her last visit, Tilly asked after me and enquired what business I was engaged in. She was told that I was working for the Communist Party. Her response was immediate: 'That's not much of a business these days, is it?'"



THE CAR PERK RACKET

The Inland Revenue wants to change the basis on which income tax is assessed for company cars. Tax bands would in future be based on a car's list price. The Treasury should instead be looking to abolish all tax advantages for the company car. This peculiarly British method of remuneration has distorted both the market for executives and the market for cars.

The change proposed last month was foreshadowed in Norman Lamont's March Budget, when he duly collected points for greenness. Discouraging expensive cars discourages pollution. What Mr Lamont failed to achieve then, and what he should be pressing for now, is the abolition of all tax privileges for the company car, even the introduction of a mild disincentive.

If Mr Lamont wants to be seen to be green, tax on motoring should be charged per gallon of petrol consumed, not when a new car is bought and thereafter on each 12 months of ownership. It is burning petrol that pollutes and it is that which should be taxed. Simply owning a car does not damage the environment nor does buying a new one. The £110 annual vehicle tax and the 10 per cent extra purchase tax, which company car users avoid, should be transferred to petrol as a carbon tax, which all car users have to pay.

Relative tax disincentives already apply at some levels. But in various key segments of the company car market, the playing field is far from level. Under the new Inland Revenue proposals, for instance, a company car whose list price is close to £19,500 and capacity just under 2,000 cc will incur a 40 per cent increase in tax liability. But modest cars (around £10,000) in the junior executive bracket, and so-called directors' cars in the £35,000 price range, will bring their users a tax decrease of as much as 15 per cent.

RELIEF OF MOSCOW

Russian reform is as vulnerable as a spider's web in a cloudburst. As the signs multiply that the reformers in the Russian government are losing ground, the US House of Representatives has at last approved the Freedom Support Act, America's contribution to the \$24 billion Western strategy for helping Russia and the other countries of the former Soviet Union overhaul their economies. The bill, sent to Congress by George Bush on April 1, has been delayed by election-year bickering, made worse by President Bush's refusal to do battle in its support.

Democrats wary of being accused of putting "foreign aid" before America's domestic troubles changed their votes only after an appeal by the Secretary of State, James Baker, who described it as "critical to securing a democratic peace". The bill is now, after negotiation between House and Senate, expected to become law by the start of the new American fiscal year in October.

The legislation nowhere approaches the grandeur of the postwar Marshall Plan, to which its supporters compared it in order to win its passage. The direct cost to American taxpayers is peanuts by comparison with the smallest domestic federal programme, and American jobs and businesses will recoup more than the cost of the aid from the bill's overdue removal of Cold War trade barriers. That does not diminish its political importance. Coupled with the IMF's release this week of \$1 billion in credit in recognition of Russia's "intrinsic efforts" this year, and a \$600 million World Bank loan for essential imports, the House vote should help Boris Yeltsin in his confrontation with Russia's powerful state industry.

Mr Yeltsin and his team weathered the first months of reforms better than most people in the West predicted. But although queues have been replaced by street bazaars that lay the myth that Russians will never make entrepreneurs, and price liberalisation has been followed by the beginnings of privatisation, the opposition is now becoming so formidable as to put in doubt not just the next, indispensable wave of reforms but the government's ability to hold the line.

Yegor Gaidar, the "acting" prime min-

ister, is the first competent and committed reformer modern Russia has known, a convinced market liberal who has so far had Mr Yeltsin's more or less undiluted support. But Mr Yeltsin's instinct for political survival has led him to insist that the Gaidar team make concessions to the military-industrial lobby. These are rapidly eroding its ability to control inflation and the budgetary deficit. The huge indebted state industries now have to fight for credit that used to be provided automatically.

It is not in the West's interest that Mr Gaidar should prove to be Russia's last reformer as well as its first. The coalition ranged against radical market reforms is no longer composed simply of discredited communists. Arkady Volok, the powerful head of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, has forged a Civic Union which has the support of such prominent democrats as Anatoly Sobchak, the mayor of St Petersburg, and Sergei Stankevich, former deputy head of Moscow city council and adviser to Mr Yeltsin. When men such as this denounce the market economy as "a liberal dream" and demand strong central control, the government has to pay heed.

The targets set by the IMF as conditions for further loans are in Russia's best interest. But the West must be flexible, recognising that Russian reform is bound to proceed in steps forward followed by half-steps back. The West can ease the vice on Mr Gaidar by replacing its month-by-month rolling over of interest payments on foreign debt with a three-year moratorium. It must be prepared to blink at departures from the economic textbooks. And it can co-ordinate its aid — notably its technical assistance — far better than it has hitherto done.

All Western help is bound to be marginal. Since April, when the Group of Seven announced its \$24 billion package, the West has given the appearance of believing that it has done all that is required. Over the next months, it must find ways to make its support politically visible to Russian people, as a counterweight to the counsels of despair from increasingly powerful men within a country where things will still get worse before they get better.

FAITH IN THE UMPIRE

For generations it has been incumbent on cricketers of all nations and all levels to respect the impartiality of umpires. From the village green, where the umpires may be spare members of the batting side, to the Test match arena, where they have traditionally been natives of the host country, competence has often been questioned in private but neutrality has to be accepted as implicit.

There have always been suspicions of home-town decisions. But resentments have essentially been contained within the off-fence dressing-room. That is how it had to be the game's fragile base of law and order depended upon it. But the system has become open to abuse by public expressions of distrust and now, sadly, it has happened in the most flagrant manner. The displays of petulant dissent practised by the Pakistan touring players in this summer's Test series have undermined their own campaign for independent umpires more persuasively than any amount of mistaken decisions might have done.

Cricket is a sporting curiosity, a team game in which each decision is seen to affect the individual more than the unit. This accounts for much of its suspense and for its harsh scrutiny of those who play and those who officiate. The day when decisions ceased to be accepted with general good grace would be the day when anarchy prevailed and cricket itself became impossible.

This summer it has come perilously close. The Pakistanis' overt displeasure has twice provoked action from the match referee, a recently installed independent official appointed by the International Cricket Council.

That there is a need for such a neutral figure reflects not only worsening on-field discipline but greater reluctance to accept the integrity of umpires nominated by the host country.

Pakistan are far from alone in this. England touring teams have periodically adopted a persecution complex. There have been times when the theatrical posturing of the players, encouraged by a captain losing sight of his responsibilities, has been every bit as reprehensible as the demeanour of the present Pakistan team.

The umpires' lot has never been a comfortable one. So many decisions are borderline and all have to be judged by the naked eye on a crucial split-second of action. Television replays have undermined confidence. When the new giant screens now on Test grounds briefly began showing slow-motion replays of tight decisions, the umpires' position became virtually untenable.

Oddly, though, it is not the actual ability to get decisions right which is at question here, but the inclination to do so. Nobody can say that independent umpires would be any more competent than those from a host country. But they would remove a distrust which is threatening to overwhelm the game's health and spirit. Some touring teams believe they are harshly treated on racial grounds, others that they are the victims of misplaced patriotism. They are usually wrong. But now that such resentments have been brandished like dirty washing before the public, there is no alternative to independent umpires. Without the consent and confidence of the players, umpiring cricket is impossible.

Guildford Four and trial delay

From the Director of Public Prosecutions

Sir, In his letter of August 6, Cardinal Hume asks why the trial of the Surrey police officers cannot take place until April 1993.

Following an extensive and detailed enquiry by the Avon and Somerset Police, the Crown Prosecution Service received the final police report on October 12, 1990. On November 22, 1990, we instituted proceedings against the Surrey police officers.

The CPS was in a position to proceed with the criminal case in the early 1991. However, the successful application by the defence for the defendants to be discharged on the ground of abuse of process, and our subsequent appeal against the magistrate's decision, significantly delayed the progress of the case. The court eventually took place on March 12, 1992.

At a hearing at the Central Criminal Court on March 27, 1992, a provisional date for the trial in October 1992 was discussed. Unfortunately, the involvement in another major case of both our leading counsel and leading counsel for one of the defendants meant that this date could not be fixed. Despite efforts to resolve the difficulty, on June 5, 1992, the court agreed to the defence's request for the trial to be fixed not before April 1993.

I fully appreciate Cardinal Hume's concern about the delay in the case and I have written to him in greater detail. Clearly, it is in the interests of everyone that the case is heard as soon as possible. But that must also include the interests of defendants in preparing and presenting their cases.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MILLS,
Director of Public Prosecutions,
4-12 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
August 6.

Circuit judge preferred

From Mr M. J. Faraway

Sir, The recent appearance of advertisements for the post of chief inspector of magistrates' courts prompts me to ask whether or not it is a pity that a circuit judge is not being appointed to the post. If such an appointment is right for prisons, why not for magistrates' courts?

The efficiency of any court depends upon a mixture of administration and magisterial decisions. The proposed inspectors will have a difficult if not impossible task in separating the two and avoiding criticism of magistrates' decisions. An inspector who was a circuit judge would have not only the experience, but more importantly, the authority, to observe and comment upon the totality of the court's performance.

I also deplore the decision to fix the salary at £47,000 per annum and on a fixed-term contract. This is bound to have a seriously depressing effect on the salaries of all lawyers in the service, right down to court clerk. The consequences upon the morale and efficiency of the service could be disastrous. Look at the Crown Prosecution Service; and they have a head of service at £77,000 per annum.

There is still time for government to think again on this important issue. Let us hope that they do so.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FARAWAY,
Clerk to the Justices,
Redbridge Magistrates' Court,
The Court House,
850 Cranbrook Road,
Ilford, Essex.

Star naming

From Mr Ian Ridpath

Sir, Readers whose interest in star naming was aroused by the letter from Ms Jaqui Clayton (August 4) may like to know that names of celestial objects that are not allocated by the International Astronomical Union remain entirely unofficial.

There is nothing to prevent any number of self-styled "star registries" from renaming the stars and selling certificates to this effect for novelty purposes, but these names will not be recognised by astronomers.

As a matter of interest, the star named after Marilyn Monroe that Ms Clayton mentions is over six times too faint to be seen with the naked eye, and would be difficult to identify even with binoculars.

Yours sincerely,
IAN RIDPATH (Editor),
Norton's Star Atlas,
48 Otho Court,
Brentford, Middlesex,
August 5.

Brussels rule

From Mr James Pilditch

Sir, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, was quoted (report, later editions, July 28) as saying: "We cannot have the Brussels machine seeking to define the Euro-sausage." The report ends with the news that one of Britain's oldest pork butchers has stopped trading because of the £70,000 cost of complying with new EC regulations.

In other words, what democratically elected ministers, acting in the interests of the British people, say we cannot have, we do, in effect, have.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES PILDITCH,
62 Cadogan Square, SW1.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Bosnia and conscience of the world

From the Chief Rabbi

Sir, The atrocities currently being committed in Bosnia strike at the very core of our consciences as citizens of the world. For surely our moral credibility after the Holocaust rests on a fundamental and collective commitment never again to be passive witnesses to the existence of mass exterminations, concentration camps and "ethnic cleansing".

To be sure, no direct comparison can be made between events today and those which took place in Nazi Germany. But the reports emerging from Bosnia bear an uncanny resemblance, in manner if not in scale, to those which disfigured humanity half a century ago.

Much has been said about the tactical difficulties of military intervention to secure humanitarian relief, inspection of camps and an end to the expulsions and executions. But too little has been said about the moral impossibility of non-intervention.

For have we not learned in this unspeakable century that we bear collective responsibility not only for what we do but also for what we fail to prevent?

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN SACKS,
Office of the Chief Rabbi,
Adler House,
Tavistock Square, WC1,
August 7.

UN structure and its role in crises

From Lord Ennals

Sir, It is understandable that Nicholas Hinton (letter, August 5) should feel frustrated with the performance of the UN in such immediate crises as Bosnia and Somalia where Save the Children (which he so ably directs) has special interests and commitments. Both he and the UN secretary-general, Dr Boutros Ghali, are right to urge far more dynamic and immediate action by the Western nations, whose performance is abysmal.

He is, however, unfair to the UN in listing Iraq, Cambodia and Afghanistan among its failures. In each case the situation would be far worse if the UN was not fully involved. Failure, like success, is relative. The UN can go no further than its member states are prepared to support.

But my main disagreement with Mr Hinton is his suggestion that we should go back to San Francisco where the UN charter was signed in 1945 to take "a fresh look" at the charter and its objectives and to create "a new United Nations".

This process is already in train. Following the Security Council summit in January, and with the support of all its members, Dr Boutros Ghali has just published his Agenda for Peace, a thorough re-think of ways in which the UN can be made more effective "for preventive diplomacy, for peacekeeping and for peacekeeping". It contains 49 proposals for strengthening the UN's performance.

This report will be a central issue for debate at the UN General Assembly in New York this autumn. And, to its credit, the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs has decided to conduct its own enquiry, taking Agenda for Peace as its starting point. UNA-UK has its own round-table discussion in London on this agenda on September 22. Mr Hinton has been invited to participate.

The most urgent action right now is to provide the UN with the funds it needs to do its work. The US is by far the largest debtor for UN peacekeeping, and many nations, like Britain, are failing to meet the UN aid target of 17 per cent GNP.

It is more important to keep the wheel turning than to re-invent it.

Yours etc.,

DAVID ENNALS (Vice-Chairman, United Nations Association),
House of Lords,
August 5.

From Mr Jim Sillars

Sir, One of the most valuable short-term steps that could be taken towards improving the structure of the UN is to enhance the ability of the secretary-general to deal with disputes between states.

The secretariat, headed by the secretary-general, is the only organ of the UN which cannot refer a dispute to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion. That is a glaring defect when one considers the key role played by the secretary-general in seeking the

peaceful resolution of disputes between states.

The post will never be free from the pressures of world politics and intrigue, but article 100 of the charter creates for it a unique position in recognising the "exclusive international character of the responsibilities of the secretary-general". Those responsibilities should be matched with the power to engage the peaceful process of legal examination of the grounds of a dispute.

Of course, not all disputes could be solved by reference to a legal opinion but there are, and have been, cases (e.g., the Falklands) where a legal opinion could forestall resort to warfare. No amendment to the charter is required for such a step as article 96 enables the General Assembly to give the secretary-general such power to refer. Inexplicably this proposal was rejected by the British government in the last Parliament.

Yours etc.,
JIM SILLARS,
97 Grange Loan, Edinburgh 9,
August 5.

From Professor Joseph Rothblat

Sir, The evolutionary process that led to the creation of the nation-state now calls for the next step, the evolution of the world-state in the form of world government. Just as loyalty to the nation still permits loyalty to our family and local community, so the new loyalty to mankind would be an extension, not a replacement, of loyalty to the nation.

Science and technology have provided a strong rationale for the new loyalty. For the first time in history, civilisation can be destroyed by man-made actions; our civilisation may go under with a bang, in a nuclear confrontation; or with a whimper, by the poisoning of the environment.

A world government will not be realised for a long time, but it is important that it is clearly made our ultimate goal, so that any reorganisation of the United Nations will be a step towards this aim.

Yours faithfully,
J. ROTHBLAT,
8 Asmara Road, NW2.

From Mr Keith Hindell

Sir, Mr Nicholas Hinton castigates the UN for "repeated failures", citing five examples where the organisation is grappling with daunting problems. We might just as well accuse the Save the Children Fund of "failure" every time we hear of a case of child abuse.

Most of the time it's not the UN that fails but the member states who fail to give the organisation the authority and the means to tackle these problems. In the future member states will need to pool much more of their sovereignty in order to enhance the organisation's capacity for action.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH HINDELL,
6 Lovelace Road,
West Dulwich, SE21.

TV news timing

From the Chief Executive of the Independent Television Commission

Sir, Articles by Melinda Wittstock and Roger Graef (Media, August 4) suggest that Andrew Quinn, ITV's new chief executive, may succeed in his plan to persuade the Independent Television Commission to agree to an extension of peak time on ITV to 11pm, so as to enable News at Ten to move half an hour later. The ITC has no such intention.

The definition of peak time (6pm to 10.30pm) was set out when the Channel 3 licences were advertised last year and applications were submitted on this basis. As part of their licence condition the Channel 3 licensees must schedule simulta-

neously on each weekday evening a half-hour news programme in peak time from 10pm, the news provider nominated by the ITC for ten years.

Mr Quinn's confidence that ITV has the financial and creative resources to produce original and innovative programmes is well placed. The commercial success of ITV will not be jeopardised by high-quality news programmes in peak time. On the contrary both its reputation and its marketing reach will be enhanced.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GLENCROSS,
Chief Executive,
Independent Television Commission,
70 Brompton Road, SW3,
August 5.

Reviving woodland

From Mr Michael Gardner

Sir, You report (July 24) the countryside minister, David Maclean, at the recent launch of the final volume of guides to Britain's ancient woodlands as saying that these woods are threatened "by a lack of ... pollarding and coppicing, that used to sustain a whole range of rural activities".

Excellent markets already exist for young hazel coppice, worked in rotation, for use as wattle hurdles and thatching spars, hundreds of thousands of which are currently imported. This particular resource is small but there is a large potential resource in neglected mixed hazel woodlands to be found in this country.

I and other foresters are investigating potential markets from neglected

mixed coppice woodland. Markets already exist for numerous products including fencing and hedging stakes, wattle hurdles, pea sticks, bean poles, gate hurdles, tent pegs, besoms (brooms) and pot pourri shavings. At present 20,000 tonnes of charcoal are being imported each year, in some cases from endangered tropical forests.

The potential exists both for increasing the conservation value of such woodlands and for providing rural employment (for low capital investment). There is, however, a need for training for the novice coppicer; not only in how to make the actual products but, as important, in the basic ecology of the woodlands.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GARDNER,
Greenhurst,
Carmel, Cumbria,
July 27.

Liaison at work on drug testing

From Mr David Bedford

Sir, Dr Lucking (letter, August 3) is right in saying that the British Athletics Federation should be glad to disseminate information about its drug testing; we are.

In April of this year the full details of our test results for the previous year were on show at a press briefing in London, and detailed information about the testing programme of athletics and other sports were sent to the editors of 28 daily and Sunday papers and to 27 radio and television commentators. At this time a summary of the previous year's results were produced also to aid comparison; not so much a "wall of silence" Dr Lucking, but a wall of information.

What these results showed was that, in addition to a large number of tests done during competitions, 133 out-of-competition tests were done at either short notice or no notice on British track and field athletes from April 1991 to the end of March 1992.

Almost everyone involved in the anti-doping movement world-wide is agreed that these out-of-competition tests are the best means we have of providing an effective deterrent for competitors who now know that they may be contacted anywhere, at any time, within Britain or overseas, wherever they may be living or training. Within the last six months alone British athletes have been subject to out-of-competition tests in all parts of Britain and also in the USA, Australia and the Canary Islands.

This testing is co-ordinated on our behalf by the Sports Council's doping control unit, which liaises with ourselves, the other sports councils in the UK, and various other international partners and agencies, to ensure that our programme is comprehensive, effective and independent.

To avoid any accusations that the BAF may be tempted to protect or favour any individual athlete, the Sports Council, on our behalf, arranges for the selection of athletes to be tested and then arranges for the samples to be collected by its own specially-trained independent sampling officers. This partnership requires close co-operation, and I do not believe a week has gone by in the last year when there has not been communication between us.

BAF and the Sports Council are committed to the principle of out-of-competition testing and we are increasing our dependence on it in the period 1990-1 (April-March) 65 out-of-competition tests were performed, in 1991-2 (April-March) there were 133, and in the last three months (to July 1), in an enhanced programme of out-of-competition testing agreed with the British Olympic Association, 53 tests have been completed. There is, therefore, a well established trend towards a greater use of out-of-competition testing.

Our federation, while not being complacent, is satisfied that its partnership with the Sports Council is having the desired effect, i.e. that of ridding our sport of the doping menace.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BEDFORD
(Honorary Secretary),
British Athletics Federation,
Edgborough House,
3 Duchess Place,
Hagley Road, Edgborough,
Birmingham,
August 6.

Olympic cheating

From Mr D. C. Fishleigh

Sir, Within the site of ancient Olympia, at the foot of the beautiful hill of Kronos and at the very entrance of the stadium, there is a row of pedestals. On these, according to the guide book, there used to stand the Zanes. These were bronze statues of Zeus, which were paid for by fines imposed over the years on competitors detected cheating at the Games.

Perhaps the tradition could be reintroduced at the modern Games, and the statues, in ever growing numbers, taken around to line the approach to the stadium at each celebration.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. FISHLEIGH,
21 Linkfield Lane,
Redhill, Surrey,
August 5.

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Gentle literature

From Miss Mary M. Darlington

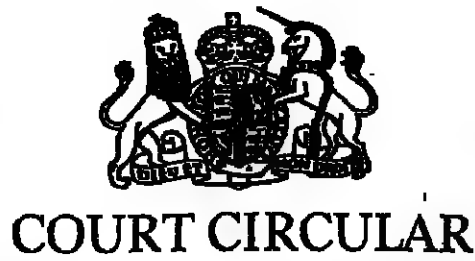
Sir, My beautiful, leather-bound copy of *The History of Mr Polly*, by H. G. Wells, price 2s 6d (12s. price), has finally worn out and cannot be replaced because it is out of print. The pleasant bookseller said that it is too gentle for today's A levels.

I wonder how long it will be before Dickens's books are too gentle — *David Copperfield*, for instance, and *Little Dorrit*?

My Penguin edition of *Mr Polly*, price one shilling (5 pence), is now receiving the same care as the antique crystal flowers which stand on that bookshelf.

Yours faithfully,
MARY M. DARLINGTON,
33 Glynne Way, Hawarden,
Deeside, Clwyd,
August 3.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

HMY BRITANNIA

AUGUST 7: The Queen was represented by Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard, Governor-General of New Zealand, at the funeral of the Rt Hon Sir Robert Muldoon, formerly Prime Minister of New Zealand, which was held in Auckland Town Hall this morning.

Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Br. Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire, was present at Royal Air Force Brize Norton today

upon the departure of The King and Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and bade farewell to Their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE

AUGUST 7: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, was represented by Mr David Landale at the funeral of Sir Anthony Gray, which was held in St Mary the Virgin Church, Upton Scudamore, Wiltshire, this morning.

Scriveners' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Scriveners' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr A.H. Cooke; Renter, Mr B.J. Duck; Renter, Mr A.H. Hamilton-Hopkins.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr J.H. Culver is to be HM Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua from November in succession to Mr Roger Brown, who will take up a further Diplomatic Service appointment.

Mr Gordon Johnson is to be HM Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia from the end of this month.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: William Bousson, biologist, 1861; F.A.M. Dirac, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Bristol, 1902.

DEATHS: Thomas A Kempis, theologian, Agostino, The Netherlands, 1471; George Canning, prime minister 1827, London, 1827; Lucia Mathews, known as Madame Vestris, actress, London, 1856; Robert Moffat, missionary, Leigh, Surrey, 1883; Jacobus Johannes van der Meer, physicist, Nobel laureate 1935, Amsterdam, 1982; Anthon Denkin, commander of the anti-Bolshevik forces in the Russian Civil War 1918-20, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1947; Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, 1979.

The English Poor Law Act was passed, 1834. The Great Train Robbery - 22.25 million stolen from the Glasgow-London train at Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, 1963. President Nixon resigned as a result of the Watergate affair, 1974.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Henry V, reigned 1413-22, Monmouth, 1387; Isaac Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*, Stafford, 1593; Thomas Telford, road, bridge and canal builder, Wexford, Dumfries, 1757; Philip Larkin, poet, Coventry, 1922.

DEATHS: Maarten Tromp, Dutch admiral, killed in an engagement with the British, 1653; Frederick Marryat, 1848; Sir Edward Frankland, chemist, Colar, Norway, 1899; Ruggero Leoncavallo, composer, Montecatini Terme, Italy, 1919; Ernst Haeckel, naturalist, Jena, Germany, 1919; Dmitry Shostakovich, composer, Moscow, 1975.

An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki by the USA, 1945. Singapore seceded from the Federation of Malaysia and became an independent sovereign state, 1965.

Ancient find

Archaeologists discovered seven Bronze Age graves at a site near West Limon in the Borders after being alerted by a Lothian Region water department worker. Andrew Moffat called them in after finding pieces of pottery in a dried-up part of a reservoir. The graves, over 3,000 years old, contained a necklace, paws, and human teeth.



Sir Edward Heath conducting the German MDR broadcasting company symphony orchestra at the Weimar music festival yesterday

York hosts meeting on medieval Europe

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of medievalists will assemble next month in York, one of the great towns of the Middle Ages, to report on progress in their field. The Queen of Denmark, in whose realm the serious study of medieval archaeology began four centuries ago, is patron of Medieval Europe 1992, and the Prince of Wales is sending a message of support.

The prince tells delegates on the first page of their wide-ranging programme: "The Middle Ages were a formative period when Europe began to assume the character it possesses today. As we look to the future of Europe it is important that we do not forget its rich medieval past."

The medieval period runs from AD 500 and the collapse of Rome to AD 1500 and the discovery of worlds unknown to the Middle Ages. Up to 15 separate sessions each day will deal with such topics as maritime studies,

technology and innovation, trade, religion, and death. Scholars are coming from all over the world, including many from Eastern Europe, where medieval studies have escaped the straitjacket of Marxist interpretation. Scandinavian workers will report on marine archaeology in the Baltic, and the impact of the Vikings from Britain to Byzantium.

British archaeologists, who have done some of the most extensive excavations on medieval sites, will report on projects including the excavation of monasteries at Hartlepool, Furness and Whitthorn. Rural settlements, and the artifacts left by their inhabitants, will show how most of the population lived in a Europe that was politically fragmented but recognisably a cultural unity more than 1,000 years ago.

Medieval Europe 1992, September 21-24. 1. Pavement, York YO1 2NA.

University news

Durham
Professor Michael Prestwich to be a Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

The university's Centre for Maritime Studies is to carry out a study of Britain's sea-related activities from the late nineteenth century. The project, funded by a £116,700 grant from the Leverhulme Trust, will cover sea-borne trade, ship ownership, port operation, fishing, maritime defence, marine leisure and seaside tourism.

Latest wills

Recent wills include (net, before tax paid):
Mrs Marjorie Goudrell Traesman, of West Kirby, Merseyside, £567,249.
Mr Gwynn Bennet Williams, of Aberystwyth, £619,595.
Mrs Mildred Amelia Wilson, of Cambridge, £1,139,967.
Mrs Julie Wirth, of London, £538,370.

Church news

Church of Scotland
Deaths
The Rev James Body (Aberdeen with Cromdale and Ardee).
The Rev James Kidd (Aberdeen and Tealing).
The Rev Gordon Makins (Kilmun St Mary's with Salsburgh).
The Rev Keith McKillop (Dunbart).

Duke to hold sale of Eaton Hall effects

By JOHN SHAW

THE Duke of Westminster is holding an auction sale of household effects and architectural fittings from Eaton Hall, the family seat near Chester, next month.

The house has undergone several transformations in the past 150 years and the sale represents a clear-out of property going back to the original mansion. Sotheby's estimates that the 500 lots will make between £150,000 and £200,000 at a one-day auction in the stables on September 21.

The Duke will be following Simon Howard, who staged a similar auction at Castle Howard last autumn. But Jonathan Meyer, of Sotheby's in Chester, said: "This will be nothing like as extensive as that."

Some of the pieces on sale can be traced back to the original hall, built in 1685. It was revamped by William Porden in 1802 and, perhaps most spectacularly, by Waterhouse in 1869. That

house was demolished and rebuilt in the modern style in 1961. The building has recently been refaced in a more traditional manner.

There are many architectural pieces that no longer have a place in the present hall, including fine carved chimney pieces from the mid-18th century. A marble example carved with a relief of Diana and her hounds is expected to fetch £15,000 to £25,000.

Mr Meyer said: "The most interesting group of items are really the architectural pieces which have been removed from the Victorian hall. There are some very nice fireplace surrounds and chandeliers, and since the house was redone again there are quite a lot of modern fittings."

There is 56ft of oak balcony balustrading, with pierced and carved panels showing the Westminster porcellains and stylised Tudor roses, which is expected to make £3,000 to £5,000. The residue of a Minton service from downstairs, each piece carrying the Westminster monogram within a narrow, bright blue and gilt border, will be sold as well as many other domestic items. There is a collection of 22 leaded and stained glass panels, some decorated with the Grosvenor coat of arms and armorials.

One of the most interesting items is an imposing William IV six poster bed circa 1820. The bed's canopy is profusely decorated with gilded garb and wheat sheaf, the Grosvenor crest, and rests on six massive supports. In spite of needing restoration it is expected to fetch £10,000-15,000.

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Church Services tomorrow

ROYAL HOSPITAL, Chelsea, SW3: Services resume August 9.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, W1: Services resume August 9.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: Services resume August 9.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 AM. O God, be merciful to us.

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**SIR ROBERT
SOMERVILLE**

Mr Reynolds, a librarian at St David's University College, Lampeter, for 25 years, last won the Chair, the most coveted of all poetry prizes in Wales, at the Llanrwst Eisteddfod three years ago.



Deluge of abuse: an angry creditor pours a jug of water over Valere Tjolle, chairman of Land Travel, at a meeting in Bristol yesterday

UK demands end to atrocities

Continued from page 1
would like to join you there," he said in an interview with Independent Television News. Dr Karadzic said his offer to exchange prisoners had been repeatedly rejected by the Muslims and Croats. He added that he wanted to investigate "disobedience" by camp guards. The camps were, he said, controlled by civilian authorities. "I am going to press civilian authority police to find out what is

happening in this prison [Ormska] and correct everything. First of all, they should release all people older than 60, then all people charged with minor crimes... then they have to feed people, although I know there is a shortage of food." In a letter to *The Times* today Dr Jonathan Sacks, the chief rabbi, says that much has been made of the tactical difficulties of intervention. "But too little has been said

about the moral impossibility of non-intervention." A Vatican official said the Pope would support intervention to stop atrocities. He said that the Pope welcomed all initiatives taken by the UN and European states to put a brake on the horrendous war in Bosnia.

Red Cross problems, page 9
Bush "wimp factor", page 9
Mark Almond, page 10
Letters, page 11

Tourist's revenge

Continued from page 1
locked up for the rest of your life. I had a nervous breakdown before this holiday. It took us 18 months to save up. We can't afford a holiday now." Mr Butler, a partner in the liquidators Grant Thornton, said the firm's database had now been sold to give £50,000 of assets, while a further £25,000 might be realised from the sale of office furniture, and he urged creditors to write to him with their allegations.

Every time, the Olympics throw up at least one performer of absolutely colossal stature. In 1968, Bob Beamon practically leapt out of the long-jump pit. In 1972, Mark Spitz won seven golds in the swimming pool and Olga Korbut single-handedly turned gymnastics into a major event. In 1976, a rather esoteric year, we had the colossal performances of Alberto

Sport marches on, but where are the heroes?

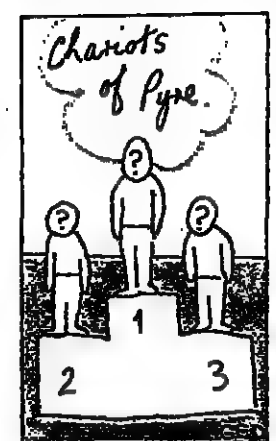
In my youth, no children's annual was complete without a page of Familiar Objects Viewed From An Unfamiliar Angle. It was full of enigmatic images that always turned out to be table forks in grotesque magnification. Covering the Olympic Games is a bit like that. You are too close. You see too much detail. You are always going out to the Games, scrambling for today's story, rather than sitting at home letting the Games come to you. Your apprehension of the key moments is critically different from that of most people, because you are not watching television. The images are quite different. For example, at the World Cup semi-final, caught up in the ebb and flow of the football, I never noticed Gazza's tears. That was television, not theatre. As I watch the Games in the horrific and bewildering magnification of reality, I find myself asking: who is the real star of the Games? And the answer is, I don't know.

Correct me if I am wrong, but there doesn't seem to be one. No one individual has stamped a personality all over the Games. If the Barcelona Olympics are to be remembered as this person's or that person's Games, the athlete has either eluded me or has yet to perform. Every time, the Olympics throw up at least one performer of absolutely colossal stature. In 1968, Bob Beamon practically leapt out of the long-jump pit. In 1972, Mark Spitz won seven golds in the swimming pool and Olga Korbut single-handedly turned gymnastics into a major event. In 1976, a rather esoteric year, we had the colossal performances of Alberto

Olympic sketch

quadrupling up. Those that do tend to crash, none more spectacularly than poor Gail Devers in the hurdles; she hit the last in front and rolled across the line into fifth place. The lack of heroes shows two things. First, the Games are more competitive than before. For example, in athletics, scarcely anyone who won gold in the world athletics championships in Tokyo last year has won here. Professionalism has created fierce competition. Top performers do not retire to start a career: sport is a career these days. More and more people go into sport for the same reason. Secondly, these Games have gone without the performances of towering intensity we remember from previous Games. Or so it seems. We see performances that are well down on Olympic and world records, sniff, and think there must be something wrong with them. Actually, there is something wrong with the world records. Since Seoul and Ben Johnson, athletes in all Olympic sports are subject to drug testing out of competition. It is much harder to get away with doping these days. Olympic athletes have been robbed of the heroic cachet of world record performances, and spectators have been robbed of that sense of privilege one feels at seeing just the best but the best ever. The truth is, we probably are watching the best ever. But there is less pharmacological inflation of performance, and there are a great many more top-quality performers fighting for every single medal. In terms of sport, this is an advance. The prize is to be a hero.

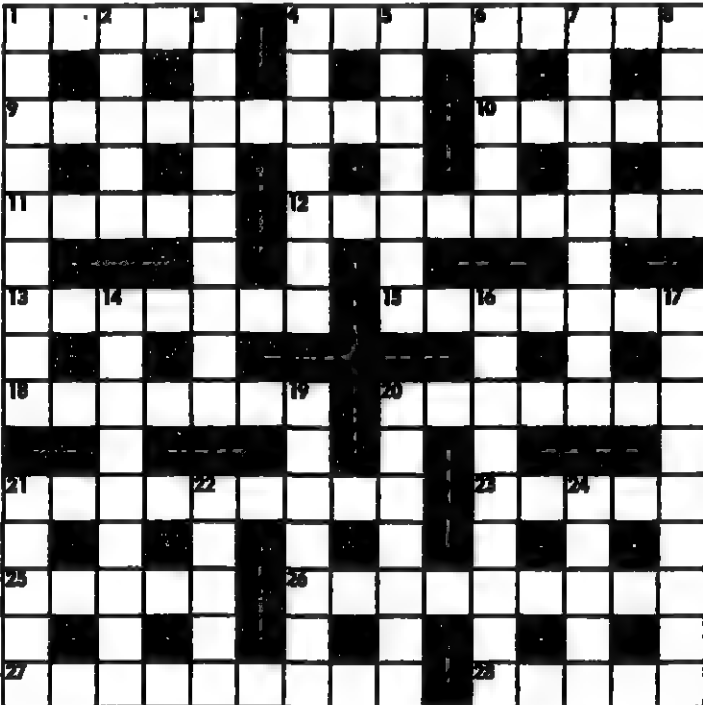
SIMON BARNES



these people unforgettable. Effortless dominance is carried from one event to the next. But so far, this has not happened in Barcelona, and it does not look like happening, either.

Biondi was not the same this time around. Lewis is competing in only two events. Johnson was a shadow of his former self. Certainly, there have been people who have dominated a single event, but no one seems capable of carrying the quality of effortless dominance from one event to the next. Perhaps no one will ever do so again. Increasingly, athletes are fighting sky of doubling and trebling and

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,992



- ACROSS**
- His Greek sentences were dreadful (5).
 - Attempt to understand history by means of Cabinet enquiry (4-5).
 - The sort of bread that will do for dinner, say (9).
 - Riding gear? (5).
 - Composer's record heard (5).
 - Veronica healthy on amphetamine (9).
 - Royal visitor from Spain, intrigued by unusual tree (7).
 - Front of yellow T-shirt is becoming dry (7).
 - Brings fish to bank — needs, perhaps? (7).
 - Enterprising figure of Luther's Reformation (7).
 - Pink chariot race (9).
 - Casles in the air (5).
 - Hint at love in the dance? (5).
 - Parisian's happy about being lewd — that takes the biscuit (9).
 - Don runs around this university (9).
 - Big end goes in car journey in mountain range (5).
- DOWN**
- Wooden rods need fixing properly inside (9).
 - No sea change for ages and ages? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,992

Across: 1. DREADFUL, 2. HISTORICAL, 3. DINNER, 4. RIDING, 5. COMPOSER, 6. VERONICA, 7. SPAIN, 8. YELLOW, 9. FISH, 10. LUTHER, 11. PINK, 12. CASTLES, 13. DANCE, 14. PARISIAN, 15. DON, 16. BIG.

Down: 1. WOODEN, 2. NO.

Solution to Puzzle No 18,991

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Down: 1. WOODEN, 2. NO.

WORDWATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- SUOID**
a. Sea genera
b. A kind of addressed leather
c. Profile
- HIRP**
a. A virago
b. A thistle
c. An order to a dog
- CALANCO-GALANG**
a. An Australian locust
b. A carnivorous monkey
c. A dried-up river
- CHEILA**
a. A diaphane
b. A lobster
c. Greek digraph for d

Answers on page 12

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C. London (within M4 & S. Ceres) ... 731
M4 roads M4-M1 ... 732
M4 roads M1-Dartford T ... 733
M4 roads M2-M4 ... 734
M25 London Orbital only ... 736

National
National motorways ... 737
West Country ... 738
East of England ... 740
Midlands ... 741
North-west England ... 742
North-east England ... 743
Scotland ... 744
Northern Ireland ... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheaper rates) and 48p per minute at all other times.

FINES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London ... 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex ... 702
Dorset, Hampshire & IOW ... 703
Devon & Cornwall ... 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset ... 705
Staffordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire ... 706
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex ... 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire ... 708
West Midlands & Shropshire ... 709
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire ... 710
Central Midlands ... 711
East Midlands ... 712
Lincolnshire & East Yorkshire ... 713
Yorkshire & the Humber ... 714
Gwynedd & Gwynedd ... 715
North Wales ... 716
North Wales & Shropshire ... 717
North Wales & Shropshire ... 718
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North Wales & Shropshire ... 726
North Wales & Shropshire ... 727
North Wales & Shropshire ... 728
North Wales & Shropshire ... 729
North Wales & Shropshire ... 730

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: H. E. Emerson, Fieldcommon Lane, Milton on Thames, Surrey; J. Grant, Devonshire Road, Bolton, Lancashire; A. Collister, Trelawny House, Cowfold, West Sussex; J. H. Moore, Gunnersbury Manor, Elm Avenue, Ealing; E. Montgomery, St Albans Gardens, Belfast.

Lighting-up times

Today: London pm to am, Bristol pm to am, Edinburgh pm to am, Manchester pm to am, Penzance pm to am.

Tomorrow: London pm to am, Bristol pm to am, Edinburgh pm to am, Manchester pm to am, Penzance pm to am.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times today: 7.45am and 8.15am.

Concise Crossword, page 12

Weekend Times section

WEATHER

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RECAP

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London	12.1	18	64	sunny	75
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Birmingham	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Cardiff	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Manchester	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Newcastle	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Sheffield	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Southampton	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Wolverhampton	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Wrexham	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
York	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Cardiff	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
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Newcastle	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Sheffield	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Southampton	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Wolverhampton	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
Wrexham	11.1	17	63	sunny	74
York	11.1	17	63	sunny	74

denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Days	Rate
Australia	2.50	2.50
Austria	2.50	2.50
Belgium	2.50	2.50
Canada	2.50	2.50
Denmark	2.50	2.50
France	2.50	2.50
Germany	2.50	2.50
Greece	2.50	2.50
Hong Kong	2.50	2.50
India	2.50	2.50
Japan	2.50	2.50
Netherlands	2.50	2.50
Norway	2.50	2.50
Portugal	2.50	2.50
South Africa	2.50	2.50
Spain	2.50	2.50
Sweden	2.50	2.50
Switzerland	2.50	2.50
Turkey	2.50	2.50
USA	2.50	2.50
Yugoslavia	2.50	2.50

Rates for small demonstration bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

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Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

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Information supplied by Met Office

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Portugal	2.50	2.50
South Africa	2.50	2.50
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denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

24hr to 6pm, 6 1hr: Bar, mean sea level, 6pm 1,016.4 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars—29.53in.
HIGHEST & LOWEST
Thursday: Temperature: day temp: Heathrow airport, 24C (75F); lowest day temp: Heathrow 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Llandow Shettan, 0.14in; highest sunshine Skegness, Lincolnshire, 13.0hr
Friday: Temperature: max 6pm to 8pm, 19C (66F); min 6pm to 8pm, 12C (54F); Rain, 24hr to 6pm, trace Sun 24hr to 6pm, 2.6hr.
6C & BELOW
Yesterday: Temp: max 6pm to 6pm, 19C

but
oes?

WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

A wild fling with the Highlands

Meredith Etherington-Smith
describes the
pleasures that await
the tweedy set
heading north for
the Scottish season

NOT all smart summer holidays demand a suitcase full of factor 50, a Hermes wallet full of lire, a string bikini, the latest Guiltier sunglasses and Josephine Hart's new novel. This weekend, all over the Home Counties, those going on one of the smartest holidays of all will be cramming ancient rawhide luggage full of climbing boots, Viella shirts, shooting stockings, estate tweed or loden knickerbockers, anti-midge cream, a handful of serious jewellery, and several venerable cashmere sweaters.

For the fact is that while some members of society make a dash for Chianti or Sardinia in August, there are those who think that abroad is utter hell, and that the Scottish season, which opens in four days' time on the Glorious Twelfth, the first day on which the hapless grouse may legally be shot, is the only way to pass most of August and a great deal of September too.

So up the Great North Road this weekend will pile Range Rovers full of southern society with its children and its dogs, silver hip flasks tucked into capacious pockets, heading for the hills, moors and lochs of the Highlands. The exceptions will be the Queen, who cruises on Britannia up the west coast before starting her annual break at Balmoral, and those who take that most romantic of journeys, the overnight sleeper from Euston to Inverness.

For the next two months, the purple-heathered hills of the Highlands will be alive to the merry sounds of the Purdey 12-bore aimed at coveys of grouse and, as darkness falls, to the equally merry sound of the year-cris of the Highland reels as they tread and turn in their voluminous bell-dresses or kilts, up and down their measures till long past dawn.

In huge house parties up and down the Highlands the great, the good and the beautiful will have gathered upon invitation only to spend the day furiously pursuing grouse or red deer, fishing for salmon or trout, dashing back at tea time windburnt from the neck up, changing into evening dress, throwing a quick dram down and driving a hundred miles to a dance.

IF ABROAD is hell, the Scottish season is heaven; still like travelling back to a grander, more pleasant past. A time when a duke was a proper duke, laird of 50,000 acres of completely unproductive grouse moor, not a theme-park entrepreneur. A time when one had to be invited by a friend, not pay a stranger. And that is what separates the Scottish season from any other holiday; you cannot pay to take part, you have to be invited by the resident Scots, a notoriously clannish and very grand bunch.

Scotland is the one place left where grand is still very grand. There are more than a quorum of dukes and marquesses, but other more arcane titles such as "of that ilk" and the Cock of the North (the Marquess of Huntly) have a peculiarly ancient charm. There are clan chieftains who are also dukes, such as the Duke of Argyll, chief of the clan Campbell; there are lairds and their ladies and hirsutly grand chaps simply called The Macnab or The MacThomass.

The Scottish season, a brief two months spent out of time, begins with the Glorious Twelfth and the Northern Meeting, a prosaic name for a ball held twice a year in and around Inverness, capital of the Highlands, which is where everyone meets up for the first time in the season.

A word of warning here: your reeling has to be absolutely perfect, otherwise you won't be asked again. If your rendition of Hamilton House lacks finesse, attendance



Dressed to kill: the order of the day is very ancient tweed or loden knickerbockers and a tweed shooting coat that does not match; the only sartorial excitement rests in the choice of shooting stockings

at The Wandsworth Reel Club (0962 771352), held at the Wandsworth Town Hall on the first Thursday every month from October to May, but not December, is an essential investment.

Perhaps the smartest ball of the lot is the Oban Ball, which takes place in the Gathering Hall at Oban, far up on the west coast, after the Argyllshire Gathering, later this month. Anyone can take part in the Gathering, a loyal parade of clan chiefs and local landowners. But the Oban Ball is different. This is definitely a private party run by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, neither of whom subscribes to the notion that press photographers are an essential thread in the rich tapestry of contemporary society.

By the first week in September, all social roads lead to the Isle of Skye and to hagger-mugger house parties scattered in bothies, bed-and-breakfasts, and the few houses large enough to accommodate them across that lunar landscape. For it is time to gather for the Skye Balls.

Two nights, on September 2 and 3, are spent non-stop reeling in the Gathering Hall in Portree, and the much-prized tickets can be obtained only by being invited by a subscriber to the balls.

These two evenings are ruled with a rod of iron by Ruiridh Hilleary, who is particularly strict on dress. He has been known to send girls home if their dresses were more than the obligatory maximum three inches above the floor. Low-cut cleavage is also frowned on (it could lead to embarrassing exposure during a particularly energetic reel).

Tartan sashes, pinned with a brooch, may be worn only if there is a direct clan association, and then only over the left or right shoulder, depending on your status (the eldest daughter of an important family, the wife of an army officer or a royal wear theirs over the right shoulder, everybody else over the left. No one ties their sash round their waist).

No sooner has the Highland socialite recovered from these exertions than it is time, if he or she is so inclined, to travel across the Highlands to Braemar for the annual Highland Games and a generous helping of royalty, clad in tartans and headscarves.

These are the most structured, not to say stage-managed, of all the Highland Games and attract a huge crowd, drawn by royalty rather than by the opportunity to see some really serious caber-tossing.

The Blairgowrie Highland Games, on the other hand, are the



Spot the ball: Lady Georgina Murray reeling at Blair Castle

real thing rather than a media event. They are held at Ardbair Castle, home of Laurence Blair Oliphant who, with his large red beard and wild red hair, looks more like Queen Victoria's romantic idea of an ancient clan chieftain than is possible to imagine.

THESE games are more in the traditional "country clan" mode and are much more fun and less formal, really.

But the raison d'être, the heart, of the Scottish season is the sporting house party. These take place in grand castles, such as Blair, or in wonderfully old-fashioned shooting lodges with all the home comforts of a Victorian orphanage. Some of these lodges may be rented for the season, but most are privately owned. A word here about decoration. There isn't any. Well, there is, but "decorator" is not a word that springs to mind when trying to describe the Highland interior. Antlers, faded tartans,

chintzes almost obliterated by half a century of sporadic sunlight, huge sofas with arms broad enough to balance a large dram, spartan bedrooms which still have working washstands, Rider Haggard and A.E. Henty, a bottle of malt and a jug of spring water by the bed, are the norm. It is not smart to be smart in the Highlands.

A Highland sporting house party does not consist of six people intent on a month's wife-swapping and cocktail-parring. It is a large, sprawling, inchoate mass of parents, children, grandparents, friends and a great many dogs, sporting and otherwise. Such a house party entails the employment of a great deal of raw energy for sport, not sex, is the order of the day, and it begins early.

Those whose idea of a solid breakfast is a bowl of muesli and a cup of black coffee have no place at the Highland breakfast table. Breakfast here is taken early and it is taken seriously, for it will have to sustain you on the hill until the distant prospect of lunch. So a proper old-fashioned Scottish breakfast is consumed as ballast by all members of the house party.

THIS may consist of a generous number of freshly-baked baps, herring fried in oatmeal, haddock, ham and egg and local sausage, not to mention towering piles of toast and home made marmalade.

Promptly at 9am it is time to rug up for the hill. Rugging up entails layer upon layer of very old tweeds and sweaters. The order of the day is carefully darned and very ancient tweed or loden knickerbockers, worn with a tweed shooting coat that doesn't match; green or heathery sweaters, also darned; and a Barbour that has seen far, far better days. The only sartorial excitement rests in the choice of shooting stockings, which may have quite fancy decorative tops (the best I have ever seen had tops knitted with convolutions like a castle — indeed, they were worn by someone who actually lived in one).

A leather or canvas cartridge bag whose dilapidation, featuring dried bloodstains and scored by heather, bears mute witness to many similar sporting excursions, is the only permitted accessory, apart from a gun.

There are no designer labels on the hill, only the subtle message of ancient estate tweeds (specially designed for, and only worn by, the owners of estates, their workers, and sometimes one or two very close friends). These are made up into sturdy sporting clothes by such

specialists in the genre as Campbell's of Beaulieu.

Suitably clad, the Highland sportsman or woman collects his or her "piece" from the jolly Sloaneys girls up from SW3 who work in the shooting lodge kitchen for the season during the day, and husband-hunt at night. A "piece" is lunch: as simple as a bap or two stuffed with heavy-duty ingredients, for energy burns up fiercely struggling through the heather. Or the jolly Sloaneys will have packed a huge and complicated series of fixed picnic baskets with cold grouse sandwiches, ham, potato salad, cold sausages and loads of beer, whisky and wine.

Lobbies are corralled in the backs of Land or Range Rovers, and the party sets out for the grouse butts high on the moors. Those going stalking set out a lot earlier, singly or in pairs with their stalker, followed by a pony-boy and his pony (to bring the carcass down).

The house party reconvenes at

lodge or castle for a serious tea: the Sloaneys will have been baking all day. Then it is time for the hot bath, the curling tongs and the change into ballgown, black tie or that most glamorous of male dress, the kilt, to reel until after dawn.

As September draws to a close, so does the Scottish season, winding down gently with a visit to the Western Meeting and Ayr Gold Cup in the Lowlands, or more suddenly by taking the overnight express from Inverness to London.

One thing is sure: those who do the Scottish season will have had more fun, and feel healthier, than a thousand sunburnt denizens of Chianti. For there is a cheerful and uncomplicated camaraderie in the Highlands, a sense of old-fashioned, home-made fun about the Scottish season that is a rare and precious commodity these days. It is very hard to beat.

Lord and Lady Mansfield at home at Scoon Palace, page 10

HOLOCAUST 1992

Oh God!
It's happening
again!



Protest against
Serb "ethnic cleansing"
in Bosnia-Herzegovina

join the RALLY

TRAFALGAR SQUARE
SAT 8 AUGUST 1992 - 2pm

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA ACTION CAMPAIGN

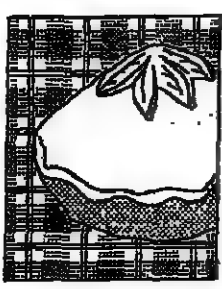
tel 081 968 1935

PASSPORT TO FRANCE, PAGE 6



Live the high life at a
superb French Relais
& Châteaux hotel with
30 per cent off the
price, courtesy of a
unique Times offer

SCOTTISH FOOD AND DRINK, PAGE 7



Load up for the
Glorious Twelfth with
potted beef and
grouse, a flask of
single malt and a
Scottish seaweed feast

SHOPPING IN EDINBURGH, PAGE 11



When you tire of
grouse and heather, take
in some urban style
on the Royal Mile — or
see page 4 for a
Scottish gardens tour

THEATRE

LONDON

ABSENT FRIENDS: Ayckbourn's bleak yet comic case-study of modern marriage: subtle, shrewd and deftly acted (Gary Bond, Susie Blake, Chertin Mellor). Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE DYING: Katie Mitchell's thrillingly convincing Hasidic community where the supernatural presses in on all sides. Joanne Pearce superb as the girl possessed. The Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, Tues, 7.15pm, mat today, 2pm.



Penny Downie: a new face in Death and the Maiden

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross take over in Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

MUSH: Max Stafford-Clark directs a new play by April De Angelis, author of the excellent non-fiction. Four characters try to pick up their lives after a girl vanishes in strange circumstances. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Previews tonight, 8pm; opens Mon, 8pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat (after Aug 15), 4pm.

MOTHER TONGUE: Uneven but amusing vehicle for Pamela Stiles as a mother-in-law in Alan Ayckbourn's new play, directed by Richard Cottle. Greenwich, Croom's Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Brian Friel's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his carping afterlife. A revival to be cherished. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: John Guare's fine play on human interdependence transfers to the West End. Stock Exchange, Chancery Lane, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

STREET OF CROCODILES: Théâtre de Complicité create a dramatic equivalent for the phantasmagoric stories of Bruno Schulz. Galician writer shot in 1942. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-828 2522). Previews tonight, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then in repertoire.

THE TALKING OF LIBERTY: Third in the "Woman in the Moon" season. Women's experience in the French Revolution, offering parallels with modern Yugoslavia. Epic play with large cast, by Cheryl Robson. Man in the Moon, 392 King's Road, London SW3 (071-351 2876). Preview Tues, 8.30pm; opens Wed, 7.30pm; then in repertoire.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Carls as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama laced with wit. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

CHICHESTER: Good old Oliver Goldsmith, never less a theatre down and does wonders for the box-office. This production of *The Stoops to Conquer* stars Iain Glen, Jean Boht and Denis Quilley. Festival Theatre (0243 781312). Previews tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm; opens Wed, 7pm.

GLASGOW: Tron Theatre Company's exhilarating Scottish version of Michel Tremblay's French-Canadian play *The Guild Sisters* about 15 women and a million green stamps. Tron, 63 Tronage (041-552 4267). Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm; then on tour.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Simon Russell Beale in Sam Mendes's intimate staging of Richard II, later to become the RSC's Regional Tour production. The Other Place, (0789 295623). Previews tonight, Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7pm.

FILM

BATMAN RETURNS: Quirky but no-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Balcony (071-593 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2633) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

BELLE DE JOUR: Buñuel's 1967 classic about the adventures of a bourgeois wife (Catherine Deneuve). Cool and compelling in a sparkling new print. Jean Sola, Michel Piccoli. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Balcony (071-593 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2633) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DAYDREAM BELIEVER: (15): Home-made girl crosses paths with a rock entrepreneur with a stud farm. Hugely foolish Australian romantic comedy. Miranda Otto, Martin Kemp; director, Kathy Muel. MGM Chiswick (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310).

FAR AWAY AND AWAY: Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman flee from Ireland to America. Lumbering immigrant epic with pretty pictures but no punch. Director, Ron Howard. Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Balcony (071-593 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2633) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

FEROCIOUSLY: THE LAST RAINBOW: (U): Bland, unimaginative cartoon feature with an impeccable green message. Director, Bill Kroyer. MGM Chiswick (071-352 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeon

Kensington (0426 914666)
Odeon West End (0426 915574)
UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE: (15): Sex-well-heeled friends in search of an uninterrupted meal. Buñuel's marvellously amusing 1972 satire, revived with 16 other films by the master of screen surrealism. Fernando Rey, Stéphane Audran. Barbican (071-638 8891).

MASALA: (18): Dishevelled spiritual fantasy set in Toronto's Indian community. With Saeed Jeffrey (delightful in three roles); writer-director, Srinivas Krishna. Metro (071-437 0757).

MY COUSIN VINNY: (15): Adventures of a novice lawyer defending a murder charge down South. Uncertain comic vehicle for Joe Pesci; bright support from Marisa Tomei, Fred Gwynne. Director, Jonathan Lynn. MGM Chiswick (071-352 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

NIGHT ON EARTH: (15): Five tragicomic encounters in five night-time taxis. Uneven but amiable. Jim Jarmusch compendium. Roberto Benigni, Gena Rowlands, Beatrice Dalle. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Gains (071-727 4043) Landmark (071-836 0651) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2633).

PETER PAN (U): Disney's 1952 cartoon version of J.M. Barrie, often bland, but Captain Hook makes a splendid villain. MGM Chiswick (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE PLAYER: (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. MGM Chiswick (071-352 5096) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-436 6272) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) Renoir (071-837 8402) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: The Covent Garden seasons end today with two performances of Kenneth MacMillan's full-bodied treatment of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. At this afternoon's performance the Kirov ballerina Alina Agnina and the Hungarian Zoltan Soyosmo portray the doomed lovers, while tonight the team of Viviana Durante and Irina Mikhaylovna takes centre stage. Tonight's performance also features the final performance of Guy Nobilet (as Tybalt) and Jeremy Sheffield (as Paris). Both dancers are leaving the Royal Ballet, Nobilet after 13 years at Covent Garden, Sheffield after 10 years. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: English National Ballet is offering the rare chance to see Ashton's 1962 version of the Bard's tragedy. A week of performances also presents an opportunity to see some fine dancers in the leading roles; watch out particularly for Trinidad Saville and Patrick Armand (Tues, next Sat) and Josephine Jewkes and Tim Almas (Wed, Fri). Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, next Sat, 2.30pm.

THE PAINTED NUDE: Up until Ety in the early 19th century the nude in Britain generally required an excuse, however transparent, in the shape of a subject from classical myth or a biblical story like Susannah and the Elders. But from then on the nude in painting gradually became accepted in its own right, until today when it can be the major preoccupation of a painter like Lucien Freud without raised eyebrows. This new display at the Tate, the second in the Cross-currents series, charts the history of this change from the gallery's own collection. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.30pm. Opens on Monday until Dec 27.

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سیدنا محمد بن عبد الله



immediately detects a deep.

Should Eldorado suffer the

You need ideas like that for a series like *Virtual Murder*. And you may probably need ideas as radical as that to rescue *Eldorado* (the brick-by-brick option sounds promising). Unless, of course, the shower works its magic, and it turns out that Pam has again been eating cheese before bedtime.

...ist attackers, because it might make matters worse; now we are advised that resistance of any sort—wailing, fighting, struggling, fin-ger-in-the-eyeball) is jolly worthwhile, and does not increase the risk of injury. The trouble is that although the requisite anger and outrage might come naturally to the attacked woman, the necessary

Women's issues: Lynsey de Paul

(Friday, BBC2, 9.30pm)
A very welcome repeat run of Nicholas Barker's witty and revealing series on the way people pride themselves on their taste in decor is first shown in the New Year. Previously, one had no conception of the passions that could surround a simple mug-tree. "This is *me*," people say, indicating a room full of leopard-skin print, or pink rose wallpaper, or whatever. This first programme, which features a succession of couples sitting on their own sofas disagreeing about the contribution of bric-a-brac to a room, is essential television.

L.T.



**Interview by
Rosanna Greenstreet**

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Rosanna Greenstreet**

071-182 7828

[illegible]

Yee ha! It's round-up time in the not-so-OK corral

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

It is eleven o'clock at night. I have just leant out of the bedroom window and I cannot believe my ears. This was supposed to be the night of broken sleep, interrupted by the fog-horn moo of a grieving calf. But there is no distress at all, just silence. The heifer calf from whom I have today removed its mother is taking it on the chin.

It could be that it is glad to see the back of its mum; everyone else on the farm is. From the earliest of our farming days this particular cow has been trouble. Whenever an escape plan was being hatched, she would be the principal architect: if the herd was due to be rounded up, she would be the one to plant obstinate ideas in the heads of the rest. Alas, the older she got the last of our three original cows has now gone. She was the batty one, whose nervous wide eyes scanned

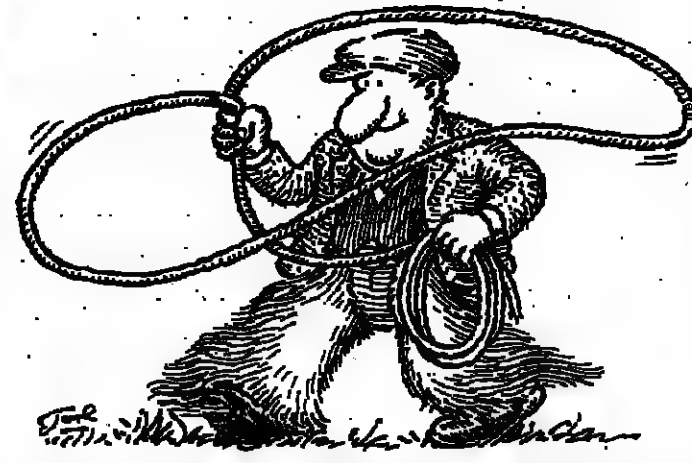
the horizon like radar dishes. The merest hint of an approach from any of us had her poised like a coiled spring. Every farmer who has seen her has been of the same opinion, and has reminded me that "the butcher is the breeder's best friend". Batty blood-lines should not be perpetuated.

It is a sad turn in my cattle-owning career, but I must admit that I am partly to blame for an eagerly anticipated love affair never having taken off. Much as I enjoy the sight of their vivid red huffs set against the distant meadows and their contemplative chewing of cud, I do not feel I know any more about cattle than when I first started keeping them two years ago. The trouble is that for large periods of



the year a small herd can easily be put to the back of one's mind. I walk the meadows regularly in the summer, but by and large they are self-tending. When they are wintered in the yards, so much time is taken up with the routine of feeding that little is left for anything else, like talking to them.

But this is all going to have to change, for despite cruel losses I intend to persevere. I took a short course in cattle-handling recently and, although packed with good advice, when it came to the practical it lacked the drama of real life. The first lesson was catching and haltering — exactly the skills I wanted to learn. Except that the demonstration herd belonged to the agricultural college. These col-



lege cows were haltered and caught on an hourly basis by student after student, so the whole exercise was about as difficult as getting a halter on a seaside donkey. They gave us a leaflet to take away called *Cattle*

Handling by Rope. It gloomily commences with the instructions for making a lasso. As it is my intention to create a traditional farm and not re-enact an episode of *Wagon Train*, I have set the

booklet to one side for the moment. I think I shall learn from experts directly. My inadequacy at stock-handling was finally brought home to me when the batty cow had to be loaded into the trailer bound for the butcher. He runs a collection service and his faithful driver, Tom, is to animals and ramps what Maradona was to footballs and goals. But it only works if you do exactly as he says, and if he does not think you are up to it he tells you to do nothing. At least, he tells me to do nothing.

He backed his trailer to the gate, took another gate off its hinges to make a race down which the cow could be driven, and then proceeded to round up the cow, its calf and a couple of bullocks which were in the same yard. "Keep talking to them," he urged me. I duly spoke: "Get up the ramp, you old bitch," I muttered. The animals were now winding up to a circular crescendo,

as they did lap after lap round the yard. "The object is to try and stop them," Tom offered dryly, and I felt further diminished.

Then came his triumph. Instead of just the cow charging into the trailer, all four of them decided they wanted to go. He knew that once the cow had been in and got out again, there was no way she would return to captivity. He grabbed both of the stabled gates and with a quick movement of those two doors he performed a bounding trick that would have done justice to the doorman at the Ritz ejecting a vagrant. And then he was gone, with the right cow, leaving me dazed. It was a spectacular performance made possible by years of biter experience, and one to which I dare not even aspire.

In fact, so devastating was it that I suspect that is what is keeping the weaned calf quiet. Like me, she is dumbstruck.

Gardens to visit

□ **Aberdeen:** Pitmedden, elaborate formal parterre with fine wall-trained fruit, herb garden, woodland walks through estate. 1m W of Pitmedden village on A920, 14m N of Aberdeen. £2.40, child £1.20 (gardens and museum of farming). Open daily until end Sept. 10am-6pm visitors welcome to Scotland's Garden Scheme garden party, tomorrow 2-5pm.

□ **Northumbria:** Abbotsford house and garden built and laid out by Sir Walter Scott. Herbaceous borders and annuals, yew hedges, fine views of the river Tweed. 3m from Melrose on A6091, turn SW on to B6360. Garden only: £1.10, child free (house also £2.20, child £1.10). Daily until end October, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 3-5pm. Tomorrow 2-5pm for Scotland's Garden Scheme.

□ **Somerset:** Tintinhull, 20th-century formal garden surrounding 17th-century house with unusual herbaceous plants and climbers, kitchen garden. 5m NW of Yeovil, 1.5m S of A303 on outskirts of Tintinhull. £2.80, April 1-Sept 30, Wed, Thur, Sat and BH Mon, 2-6pm.

Exotic borders in the glens

Francesca Greenoak plans a guided tour of Scotland

The Scottish landscape of mountains, historic glens, forests and lochs draws admirers from all over Europe, but on the basis of my own explorations, I strongly advise against embarking on a journey north of the border without two vital guidebooks, from Scotland's Garden Scheme and The National Trust for Scotland.

Start by investigating the gardens of the northeast, casting about in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, where you will find strange, hybrid-looking castles, with the air of a French chateau but solidly Scottish, with lawns and parkland rather than parterres at the foot of their towers. At Fyvie Castle, 25 miles north-west of Aberdeen, park and woodland surround an attractive lake, and new gardens for acid-loving species are being made and planted. Drum Castle (ten miles west

GARDENING

of Aberdeen, near Peterculter) has a new rose garden of historic cultivars sheltered within its walled garden. Further west, near Banchory, is Crathes Castle, famous for the beauty of its great yews and its superb, compartmented walled garden. Pitmedden has lost its original house, but its elaborate formal gardens and exquisite fruit walls are well worth a visit.

Spread along a peninsula beside Loch Ewe, within its own woodland, is Inverewe, the best known of the sheltered semi-exotic gardens of the west coast: a succession of linked specialised gardens and pools with a wide range of tender shrubs, trees and flowering plants. Southwards down the coast is Ardsheal, a new Trust garden of woods and exotics which is completely magical. Strike out by ferry to Arran

and there is Brodick Castle, with its fine rhododendron collection and wooded garden. Ribbon borders, bright with annuals, have been restored to the recreated Victorian walled garden. Below spread the most beautiful pool and stream gardens, and sloping wooded zigzags with exotic trees and flowers, and a remarkable restored summer house with a patterned fir-cone décor.

From the high volcanic cliff-top commanded by Culzean Castle you look out across the Firth of Clyde to Arran. Much of the restoration of the fabric has been completed, and there are many interesting buildings to explore, as well as a walled garden with colourful borders, 18th-century terraces with tender plants and a huge, beautiful park. Culzean is less than an hour's drive from Glasgow, but Glaswegians have an exciting, small-scale Trust prop-



Northern delights: beauty of the gardens at newly restored Culzean Castle, less than an hour's drive from Glasgow

erty at Greenbank, only six miles south of the city centre. This garden is directed towards everyday gardeners, especially owners of small gardens. Jim May, the head gardener, has made it his mission to show how wide a variety of plants can be grown

in the region. Vivid annuals are part of the summer display, and he has also built up an enviable assembly of hardy perennials and flowering shrubs. There are hardy geraniums and ferns, perhaps more surprisingly carnations, and some less common clima-

tis including several of the beautiful and very hardy macro-petals with their dainty, nodding flowers, all plants well-worth consideration in cooler gardens all over Britain.

Details of gardens and opening times can be found in *Guide to Properties 1992* (£1 plus 25p PEP

from The National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DU, 031-226 5922) and *Scotland's Gardens* (£2 plus 50p PEP from Scotland's Gardens Scheme, 31 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL, 031-229 1870). Available direct from the organisations and also from some bookshops.

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Sick as a native bird

Feather report

It is time for the parrot sketch. The English Green, if you like the parrot that flits from tree to tree in the parkland of southern England. Not bleeding well demised at all, but alive and well. Positively thriving, unlike the poor Norwegian Blue that pined so tragically for the froids.

This is the rose-ringed parakeet: the only parrot on the British list, and it really should not be there at all. But there is no escaping the reality: it is part of southern England these days. It is noisy, startlingly green with a rather over-the-top pink collar, and a natty fighter-plane silhouette: breeding, foraging, surviving, even increasing.

They first established themselves in the early 1970s, and were admitted, albeit reluctantly, to the British list in 1983. The original birds came from various sources: flying "homing" colonies kept by bird-fanciers, escapees from pet-shops and exotic bird farms, and birds released from people on ships impatient of quarantine regulations.

They are a charmingly incongruous sight. Their numbers are small enough to make them no more than an amusing exoticism. So far, that, of course, is how Canada geese started off here. The parakeets join a long list of introduced species, which includes three different species of pheasant: the normal fat, strutting dandy, and two others that make a normal pheasant look drab.

These things, like Lady Amherst's Pheasant, were deliberately introduced because they are so flashy and so pretty. The Canada goose was once a beloved exoticism: it now inspires truly xenophobic loathing. Canadas have been here for three centuries, and have thrived because they have an ecological niche to themselves. No other bird competes for



Rose-ringed parakeet

grazing rights on inland grasslands, parks and playing fields: they have, quite literally, the field to themselves.

The whole question of introductions is difficult. *British Birds*, ever the forum of birding debate, recently carried a letter all in favour of introductions: the flashier the better. "If a foreign species is very distinctive, has a limited world range in which it may be at risk, and may be able to live in modern Britain, there is a good case for welcoming it here, even if it might compete with some native bird that is plentiful elsewhere."

Most conservationists would disagree. The thinking is good-hearted, but muddled and fundamentally unsound. The world is not a zoo for human amusement: it is a great and daunting responsibility. Introductions are unpredictable and can cause great and uncontrollable changes in the ecology of vast areas. The best example is New Zealand, where black-

birds and starlings, introduced by homestead settlers, prospered mightily at the expense of the unique and extraordinary native birds.

The polarised opposite view is also dangerous. Some people argue not only against introductions, but in favour of the eradication of introduced species. Kill the Canadas with them, the ruddy ducks, the Egyptian geese, and the parakeets: by extension, kill little owls and goshawks, too.

I am suspicious of people for whom the first resort is the hands-on manipulation of nature: shoot this, burn that, dig up the other. But the situation is complex: for example, the British ruddy duck population, has spread. Birds have flown to Spain, and are hybridising with the native white-faced ducks. This is nothing less than man-made genetic chaos, and it could lead to the extinction of an already endangered species. The Spaniards are shooting ruddy ducks and believe other European countries should do the same.

The problem is that at bottom, introductions are a kind of pollution. It is just another way in which mankind messes up the world. Introductions represent more human interference to a world that could do with less.

What next? The wood duck, another flashy bird, breeds here, and its growing population could bring it to the British list. So could the monk parakeet from Brazil. It is a little crazy, and a little dangerous. One parrot on the British list is enough. At least.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: *Birders* - watch for gulls inland, particularly black-headed gulls catching insects in flight. *Twitters* - lesser crested tern at Minster, Suffolk; blue-winged teal at Chew Valley lake, Avon. Details from *Birdline*, 0898-700222.

Events

□ **Ashover** agricultural and horticultural show. Livestock competitions, trade fairs and dog show. The Rectory Fields, Ashover, Derbyshire (0246 863412). Wed 9am, £2, cones £1.

□ **West** Suffolk fuchsia show. Competitive classes, displays and sales. Corn Exchange, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (0284 769505). Today, 2-9pm, tomorrow, 10am-5pm, 80p.

□ **English National Sheepdog Trials**. The premiere sheepdog event, with competitors from all over the country taking part in testing conditions. The Showground, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria (0468 71603). Thur to Aug 15, 8am, £2.

□ **Wordsworth** summer conference. Various events celebrating the English Romantic poets, particularly Shelley. Dove Cottage, The Grasmere and Wordsworth Museum (05394 35544). Today to Aug 15, various times, £5 per lecture, block booking available.

□ **Ipswich** carnival. Furdair, grand ring attractions. Christchurch Park, Ipswich, Suffolk (0473 258070). Today, 1-5pm, £3.

□ **Croagh** country fair. Traditional weekend country show with working animals, rural crafts and folk dancing. Croagh Country Park, Liverpool, Merseyside (051-228 5311). Today and tomorrow, 11.30am-4.30pm, free.

□ **Anglesey** County Show. Featuring a full livestock competition including pigs, cattle, sheep and horses, horse-jumping and over 300 trade stands. Mona Showground, Llangefni, Anglesey (0248 724000). Tue and Wed, 9am-6pm, £5, cones £1.50-£3.

□ **Ripley** Agricultural Show. Large show including the Shetland Pony Grand National, carriage driving, pony, horse and cattle show, sheep dog display, the stars of Emmerdale Farm in a charity cricket match and plenty of local produce. Ripley Castle, Ripley, nr Harrogate, Yorkshire. Today, 10.30am-5pm, £3, child £1.

□ **Demonstration** of caning and washing. The ancient arts demonstrated by Bill Alexander. The Watershed Mill, Langcliffe Road, Settle, Yorkshire (0532 500747). Today and tomorrow, 10am-7pm, free.

Crossing the line in the wrong way

WHEN applied to opera, "international" can be one of the most meaningless and irritating of terms. Quite what it is intended to imply in the case of Bath City Opera, which proclaims itself "Britain's newest international opera company", is hard to say, on the evidence of the *Bolshoi* given six performances in five days (principals double-cast) at the Theatre Royal this week, it looks very much like "this is what we call international opera in America" — i.e. a star name or two to top the bill, some reach-me-down casting elsewhere, a complaisant conductor, conventional production and as little rehearsal as can be got away with.

At Tuesday's opening the star name was Kende Fleming, possessor of one of the most luscious soprano voices to come out of America in recent years and a stunning Fiordiligi at Gyldebourne earlier in the summer. Beautifully though she sang *Mimi* — also droopily and self-indulgently — the character eluded her. She was merely an American soprano being winsomely cute in Act I, winsomely sad in Act IV, and the very picture of rude health in Act III, with prima-donna macquillage intact and much byplay with a white handkerchief — perhaps this is what is meant by "international". Klaus Donath, the conductor, followed her dutifully.

The American tenor Marcus Haddock made his British debut as Rodolfo. He has a fine presence and healthy vocal equipment, but there is more to Rodolfo than belting the notes out at a steady forte-

OPERA
La Bohème
Theatre Royal, Bath

to-fortissimo — oh, for some light and shade. Elena Vink's quavery Musetta lacked vocal weight just where it is needed (in the middle of the voice) and Motti Kaston made an oddity hangdog Marcello, one whose potentially interesting upper register came and went. Henry Newman and Richard Robson were Schaunard and Colline respectively and respectably.

The production by BCO's artistic director John Pascoe, in pretty representational sets by David Myerscough-Jones, did not proceed without mishap: entrances were mistimed and the first-act stove glowed healthily before paper, let alone a light, had been applied to it. But the staging certainly matched Donath's conducting in being soft-centred, over-sentimental and fatally lacking in the pain and anger that course through the work.

Much more attention should have been paid to internal balance in the pit, where the Bath City Orchestra bashed through the notes, and indeed to the balance between stage and auditorium: in this small theatre, the sheer volume of the noise was often overwhelming.

If this is international opera, then I am George Bernard Shaw.

RODNEY MILNES

One for women

THE small pub theatre on King's Road at World's End was packed: an unusual occurrence. Evidently memories of the unexpected success of last year's *False Count* are still fresh. The latest offering in this season of work by women writers comes from the same Restoration stable. The author is the cryptically named Ariadne, of whom history tells us little and the theatre management less, though she was evidently a playwright of gusto and vitality.

Vivienne Cotrell's direction ensures an evening of warm-hearted cheerfulness. Patently the work of a female pen, the play makes the women the instigators of the plot, the men mere sidekicks or victims. Typically, we meet Charlotte disguised in male garb "to rumble the town" in search of a man she can take "for better or for worse" amidst the throng of fops, comcocks and fortune hunters. Her confidante Juliana scrambles into breeches to join her.

The girls are direct ancestors of Jane Austen's heroines: high spirited, good natured, emotional susceptibility tempered equally by scepticism and ever-fresh optimism. This play is less richly complex than *The False Count*; the subplots are only tenuously interconnected, running on parallel lines rather than forming a whole. But robust humour and straightforward story-telling carry the day.

Men have a fairly rotten time of it. The hero is tricked, deceived, even thrown into jail

THEATRE
She Venures and He Wins
Man-in-the-Moon, Chelsea

on false charges, all trials engineered by Charlotte to test his love. Another plot has an amorous booby, Squire Wouldbe, chastised like Falstaff for his presumptuous attentions to a married woman. (As with Falstaff, Wouldbe's humiliations include a drug disguise and a ducking). His womenfolk, of course, are more interestingly depicted: his wife Dowdy and her mother, Mrs. Belldam, rich rustics with social pretensions and — more important — blazing self-esteem.

Julian Hamlin's design does wonders with a few swags, cherubic carouches, and an arbour that can reverse into the cistern in which the booby gets his soaking. The 11-strong cast (gigantic for the fringe and amazingly well accommodated on the tiny stage) clearly enjoys itself, with notably stylish contributions from Sally Burnett's Dowdy (reminiscent of Clarrie Grundy from *The Archers*), Julie-Anne Gillitt's elegantly quizzical Juliana, and Stash Kirkbride as a Knight with a nice line in self-mockery.

MARTIN HOYLE

Back doing what he loves most

Max Stafford-Clark, the outgoing artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, is directing plays again, he tells Matt Wolf

Almost a year ago, Max Stafford-Clark, artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, found himself besieged, and not for the first time. Having come under attack previously, both for his choice of plays (including Jim Allen's ill-fated *Pendragon*) and for what some saw as an over-zealous commitment to his Sloane Square perch, he was once again being cast as the "Directorial Monarch" who refused, after 13 years, to abdicate the throne. Ten months later, the dust has settled: Stephen Daldry is well in place as artistic director-designate, and Stafford-Clark is back doing what he loves most: directing a new play, *April de Angelis's Flash*.

What, then, of last year's events, whose repercussions continued to be felt? Just last month, Stafford-Clark won his first libel suit, taking to court the magazine *GO* for publishing comments by Matthew Evans, chairman of Faber & Faber and former chairman of the Royal Court's governing board. And while Stafford-Clark 51, is expected to become Daldry's deputy when the latter inherits the top job in October 1993, the terms of Daldry's appointment are such that he can dispense with Stafford-Clark if he so chooses.

Not that Stafford-Clark himself feels particularly controversial, explaining that he has become a focus for debate largely by default: "The fact is that journalists want controversy, and most people in the British theatre are so uncontroversial. Since Steven Berkoff has become a *Guardian* columnist, there is an absence of controversial figures. If I'm controversial, it's just because everyone else is such a wet lettuce."

Looking back on last year's attacks, Stafford-Clark feels dismay most of all. "I think I was surprised to find the first articles in places like the *Express*, which has not really been a follower of the Royal Court," he explains. "I'm not suspecting a right-wing conspiracy, but if you believe that the Left has nearly been demolished and here is one theatre still

clinging to old-fashioned values, it's not totally unjustified to do so."

On some level, though, the debate clearly engages him not least because it reassures the importance of the theatre in a period of waning interest. "I think it's quite right that it's a matter of public debate who runs a theatre so I don't resent that at all. The debate polarised people, and a reasonable school of thought did feel it was time for a change. I offered not to apply, to withdraw my candidacy if it would be embarrassing, but I did also very strongly feel that I could well be the best candidate."

What Stafford-Clark hopes most to avoid is any scenario that defines him as the kind of freelance director he has rarely been in a career marked by co-founding the Joint Stock company and long associations with the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and then the Court. "I have to earn a living so I can't shy away from it altogether, but I don't think it would help me grow as an artist. I have to create something, whether still at the Court or within an existing institution, or founding another independent company that enables me to do work the calibre of Joint Stock."

"I don't think the talent to be a jobbing director, that ability to bring about the best pragmatically out of every situation you're in, is given to everyone, and I'm not sure I have it. Some people do it extremely well: Sam Mendes has an extraordinary talent for being able to find himself wherever he is."

The question remains whether Stafford-Clark has not forged sufficient ties with writers such as Caryl Churchill and Timberlake Wertenbaker that those affiliations could continue beyond the Court to other subsidised venues or even the commercial sector. The director acknowledges that possibility, but insists upon the primacy of place, having learned his lesson on Broadway and elsewhere that in the theatre the environment is all.

"When you have a vehicle like Joint Stock or the Court, it actually serves



Stafford-Clark: "I hope there will still be new plays I can direct"

your work: it creates a standard for you. If you go elsewhere, you can't quite take all of that with you, and I have to believe I can create the circumstances that will allow my work to be seen at its best." As a case in point, he cites the "diminishing

theatricality" of Churchill's *Serious Money* as it moved from the Court to the West End to Broadway. Diminishing audiences, too, since the Broadway run collapsed after a few weeks.

Serious Money sat very unfortu-

nately there simply as a matter of size. Stafford-Clark reflects, using a second Churchill play to further his point. "In *Top Girls*, the overlapping dialogue worked in a 500-seat theatre like the Court. If it were done in the Lynton it would be very hard for anyone to hear anything; you'd actually just get a blur of voice." In context, then, it's not surprising that Stafford-Clark turned down an offer to revive a contemporary play at the Lynton next year, with the result that Stephen Daldry is now preparing his National debut, while Stafford-Clark has yet to work there.

Back in Sloane Square, Stafford-Clark finds cause for concern in the loss of what might be termed the modest success. Since 1991, he points out, all the Court's main stage offerings have played to either more than 80 per cent (*Death and the Maiden* and *Six Degrees of Separation* were both sellouts) or less than 35 per cent (*Pygmalion* in the *Ruins*, *All Things Nice*). He calls the trend "fascinating but ominous: the middle ground is beginning to disappear completely. Four years ago, Clare McNamara's *My Heart's a Sultana* played to a very creditable 65 per cent; that was possible then."

Now new plays by John Byrne and David Mamet are scheduled, and Stafford-Clark hopes to return to the classics, directing Tom Wilkinson as King Lear. "I hope there will still be new plays I can direct, and writers I can suggest to commission. For me to say I will do my best, despite the opposition, to preserve those values and pass them on is not something I regret at all."

Shortlist that's long on quality

RECORDS: ROCK

If anything, the judging panel of the first Mercury Music Prize has done too good a job in selecting the shortlist of ten British and Irish albums, released in the last year, from which the winner will be chosen. The Mercury award, which is designed to honour musical excellence irrespective of commercial or "political" considerations, has yet to gain recognition beyond the confines of the music industry. One way of ensuring publicity would be to create an old-fashioned controversy, for instance by passing over the obvious candidates in favour of the outlandishly hip or outré.

However, the judges have produced a selection that is both varied and eminently sensible, given the obvious

limitations of the endeavour. To complement the competition, the organisers have assembled a cut-price compilation — The 1992 Mercury Music Prize Sampler, retailing at about £3 (vinyl and tape) or £4 (compact disc) — which features one track from each of the ten albums on the shortlist. The sampler provides an ideal basis for further investigation of artists who, in some cases, would be unlikely to achieve recognition through conventional channels. Thus, alongside "One" from U2's acclaimed *Achtung Baby* and "How Could I Fall" from Simply Red's *Stars* (the biggest selling album in Britain not only of last year but, so far, of this year too) there is the tide

track of Bhiki Mseleku's album *Celebration*. Mseleku, a gifted South African pianist and saxophonist who has been resident in London since 1985, recorded the album (his solo debut) in just two days. Its total sales before the Mercury list was announced were in the region of 2,000 copies. But, as the haunting title track suggests, *Celebration* is the kind of jazz album that merits much wider exposure.

There is not a trace of metal, country or folk on the album, and the inclusion of John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil* (Part 8) provides only token representation for classical music. While admiring the ambitious scope of the compe-

titition, one wonders how Tavener's music can be compared with The Jesus & Mary Chain's *Honey's Dead* (represented by "Far Gone and Our") or Primal Scream's *Screamadelica* (from which "Movin' On Up" is selected).

But as a vehicle for introducing the witty jazz-noir of Barry Adamson's "Split", the funky soul of the Young Disciples' "Apparently 'Nothin'", and the indie-dance blast of Saint Etienne's "Nothing Can Stop Us" to an audience that has become fragmented and suspicious of so-called "expert" opinion, the competition and this sampler could hardly be bettered.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Ravel: *Daphnis et Chloé* and *Bohème* on a new disc

one experiences no such qualms. It feels like the organic structure it is, helped not least by a rich yet clear blend and by some particularly smooth brass playing. No gesture is mere colouristic whimsy, though Ravel cooks up an appropriately magical and exotic background.

An enormously wide dynamic range might prove a problem with the neighbours, but the recording, made at Warwick University, has plenty of warmth. The ubiquitous *Bohème* is included as make-weight, as if it were needed.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Sensual blended with spiritual

CLASSICAL

Of all genres of music, the one best suited to the recorded medium must surely be Renaissance polyphony. With this at once sensual, serene and spiritual music it is possible to shut one's eyes and re-create for oneself an ambience that no longer exists in the world.

The intense spirituality needed to achieve such a condition is communicated beautifully in the Hilliard Ensemble's disc of music by Pierre de la Rue (EMI CDC 7 54082 2). He is a composer whose art is just as surprisingly expressive as that of Josquin, though De la Rue perhaps lacks his colleague's well-tuned responses to the text.

The major work here is the impressive and richly textured *Missa Cum Iocunditate*, so named because its six-note ostinato cantus firmus comes from an antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin, which sets those words. There is also a generous selection of motets.

In every piece the Hilliard show their knack of finding the right pace, the right stance. Shorter gems such as the

polytextual "Vexilla regis/ Passio Domini" and the macabre motet-chanson "Pleur gemier/Requiem" have just as much impact as more extended pieces such as the imposing "Gaude virgo", the funeral "Delicia juvenutis" or the poetic lament of David, "Considera Israel". The blend is exquisite, the refined expressivity well high perfect.

From the low-key image of the Hilliard Ensemble to the aggressively marketed Julian Lloyd Webber is a long way, but those suspicious of the cellist's family name should remember that he has uncovered some worthy neglected repertoire over the years. This disc (Phillips 434 106-2) gives us Miaskovsky's 1944 Cello Concerto, which turns out to be a double-sided coin.

The slow first movement is lyrical and nostalgic, if naïve and conservative, and it is crafted with discipline. The second (and last) movement, however, meanders somewhat, as though Miaskovsky were merely serving his time.

Still, Lloyd Webber gives a solid account, while the London Symphony Orchestra lends crisp, vividly coloured support under Maxim Shostakovitch's direction.

They are equally good in Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*, without the modifications by its first soloist, Wilhelm Fitzenhagen, which we usually hear. In this guise it seems much better balanced, and Lloyd Webber approaches with a refined spirit, stressing its Classical roots. The same composer's broad, lovely D minor Nocturne and Shostakovitch's *Adagio* from his ballet *The Limpid Stream* complete a pleasing disc which does, however, have the soloist balanced too far forward.

Sumptuous and lovely though it is, Ravel's ballet *Daphnis et Chloé* can sound too episodic to make a wholly satisfying concert hall piece. In Simon Rattle's recording (EMI CDC 7 54303 2) with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, however,

Fools wanted, to rush into West End

Faith is the vital ingredient. Producers say they have never lost it and tourists, according to the Society of West End Theatre, seem to be recovering it, but what about the angels? After a series of spectacular failures, are the British theatre's financial backers losing their zealous belief in the West End musical?

When it was announced recently that five new musicals were due to open in the West End in the next few months, it seemed producers were undeterred by the faltering track record of new musicals. But two of those due to open in London in the autumn have been put off. Compared with the likes of *Moby Dick*, *Children of Eden* and *Machete*, their budgets are modest and a couple of years ago their storylines, content and casts would

Investing in new musicals, once thought to be a safe bet, seems temporarily to have lost its appeal, Simon Tait reports

have made them sure-fire investments. But their openings are now in doubt because backers have either backed out or would not commit themselves.

Gargantua, Terry Jones's reworking of Rabelais's robust tales which its producers believe has the promise of another *Nicholas Nickleby* in its imagery and appeal, has had its October opening postponed until spring because it has failed to raise the £600,000 it needs.

The angels seem to be battle weary," says Julius Green, one of *Gargantua*'s producers. "We had promises, we had all the agreements, but we need signatures and we haven't got enough of them. We toyed with taking a gamble and going ahead anyway to get a good Christmas season, but it was too big a gamble." Last week he cancelled the pre-West End option on the New Victoria, Woking.

The other show is *Radio Times*, Alex Armitage's working of Robin Miller's script about a 1940s radio variety show, using Tony Slattery in the lead and the songs of Noel Gay such as "Run, Rabbit, Run". Armitage and his father were responsible for putting

West End theatres were in a slump, with houses averaging 23 per cent. Producers were keeping shows open in the hope of a break in the gloom by pouring money into them. There was a late recovery, but too late for half a dozen shows which closed. One producer, Mark Furness, who had five productions running simultaneously, went out of business.

According to research by Caroline Gardner of City University, for the Society of West End Theatre, the audiences are back. Attendances overall are up five per cent over last year, and only two per cent down on the record year of 1990.

The problem for investors is that audiences are not paying top prices for their tickets any more, even if they are filling the best seats. By some estimates as many as half the shows are having to offer large discounts, too large to give a reasonable return for backers.

Other new musicals are still going ahead, however. *Valentine's Day*, adapted by Benny Green and David William from Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*, is scheduled to open at the Globe on September 17. *Which Witch*, billed as a Scandinavian "operamusical", is to open on October 22 at the Piccadilly, and the musical version of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is set for an October 20 opening at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
Edinburgh: elitism made popular
It is as if running the festival is the only job Brian McMaster ever really wanted — this is the first festival director actually to take up permanent residence in Edinburgh. He takes the unfashionable but simple view that great work, properly presented, should also be popular. What he wants is to share this marvellous stuff with as many people as possible...
Edinburgh Festival special, including an interview with the new director, in *The Sunday Times* review tomorrow

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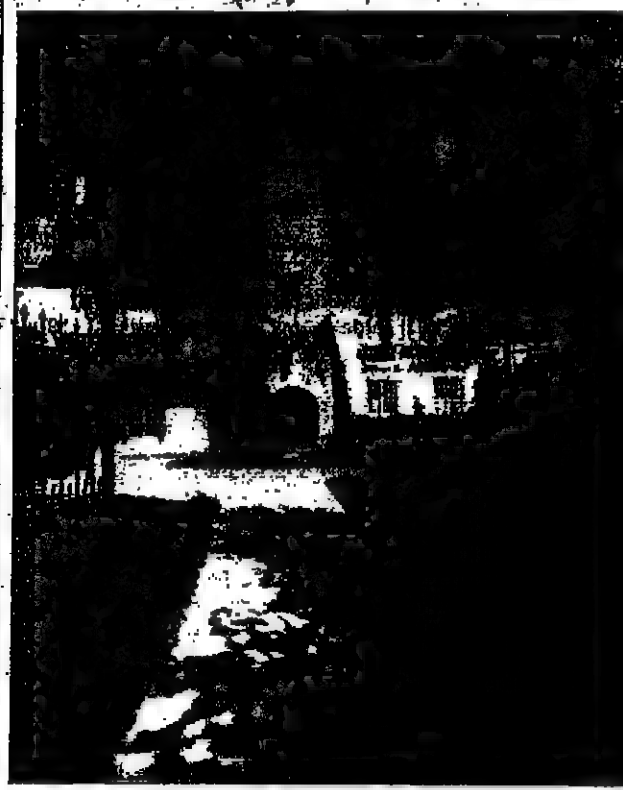
Many of the participating hotels carry an additional Red shield, representing recognition for outstanding cuisine, and the consequent award of two or three Michelin stars. Readers will receive with this offer a "Passport to Privilege" card which, upon presentation at the hotel at the time of arrival, entitles the holder to the discounts and privileges outlined in the offer, subject to availability. Readers will also receive a list of the participating hotels, a complimentary copy of the Relais & Châteaux International Guide 1992 (which also lists 20 British establishments) and the corresponding European Road Map, valued at £7.50. The International Guide provides all the relevant information you will need to help you to select your hotel.

This superb offer is valid for unlimited stays between September 15 and December 31, 1992, when the booking is made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel. A list of participating hotels appears above. To qualify, simply collect any six of the seven tokens that have been published in *The Times* since last Saturday. The seventh token for readers who may have missed a day is published below.

HOW TO APPLY

To obtain your Privilege card and complimentary Relais & Châteaux International Guide 1992 and European Road Map, simply collect any six of the seven tokens published in *The Times* and send them, together with your name and address in block capitals, to: *The Times/Relais & Châteaux Offer*, PO Box 490, London, E1 9DW, by Monday, September 7, 1992.

Fabled gables in Alsace



Luxury: Hostellerie de l'Abbaye la Pommérale

Alsace is the French part of the Rhineland plain, with the Vosges mountains towering above it. There are two Relais & Châteaux hotels quite near each other here, one on a hill crest in the village of Colroy La Roche, the other lower down in the small town of Sélestat.

Both are owned by the same family, and the one on the hill crest, called La Chenaudière, was the first that they opened. It is in the gabled Alsatian style, and its bedrooms, many with terraces, offer splendid views of the forests on the slopes and the mountain peaks.

The Hostellerie de l'Abbaye la Pommérale down in Sélestat had many existences before it became a hotel. It once belonged to the Cistercian abbey of Baumgarten, then became a residence for king's lieutenants and military governors, and in due course a baronial mansion. Now, with its 17th-century oak staircase, and its old granaries converted into luxurious bedrooms, it is a match for its hilltop cousin.

Both hotels are good bases for visiting the forests and the pretty Alsatian villages; in fact all the Relais & Châteaux hotels make perfect starting points for explorations. The Châteaux de Locquenol, for example, is a fine hotel set in a 250-acre park in the south-

east corner of Brittany, overlooking an arm of the Atlantic, and within easy reach of Carnac, a famous site of prehistoric standing stones.

At the other end of France, Le St-Paul, a small 16th-century building in the heart of a medieval village, sits on top of a ridge high over the Mediterranean, with Nice, Antibes and Cannes just a drive away.

Moving north-west, Jean-Pierre Amat's Saint-James Restaurant, at Bouliac on the edge of Bordeaux, has long been a place of pilgrimage for lovers of good food. Since 1990, it has had a hotel to complement it: the Hauterive. Where better to learn about France's finest wine country?

Other hotels ring with the echoes of French history. At the Hostellerie du Bas Bréau, on the edge of the forest of Fontainebleau near Paris, Margaret Thatcher is supposed to have softened towards Europe in June 1984. She was dining, and staying in the hotel for the night, in the company of Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand.

The hotel is in the village of Barizon, where Millet, Corot and Rousseau painted in the forest. Robert Louis Stevenson actually lived in a room in the hotel, with a view over the courtyard, which it is still possible to book.

STRAIGHT

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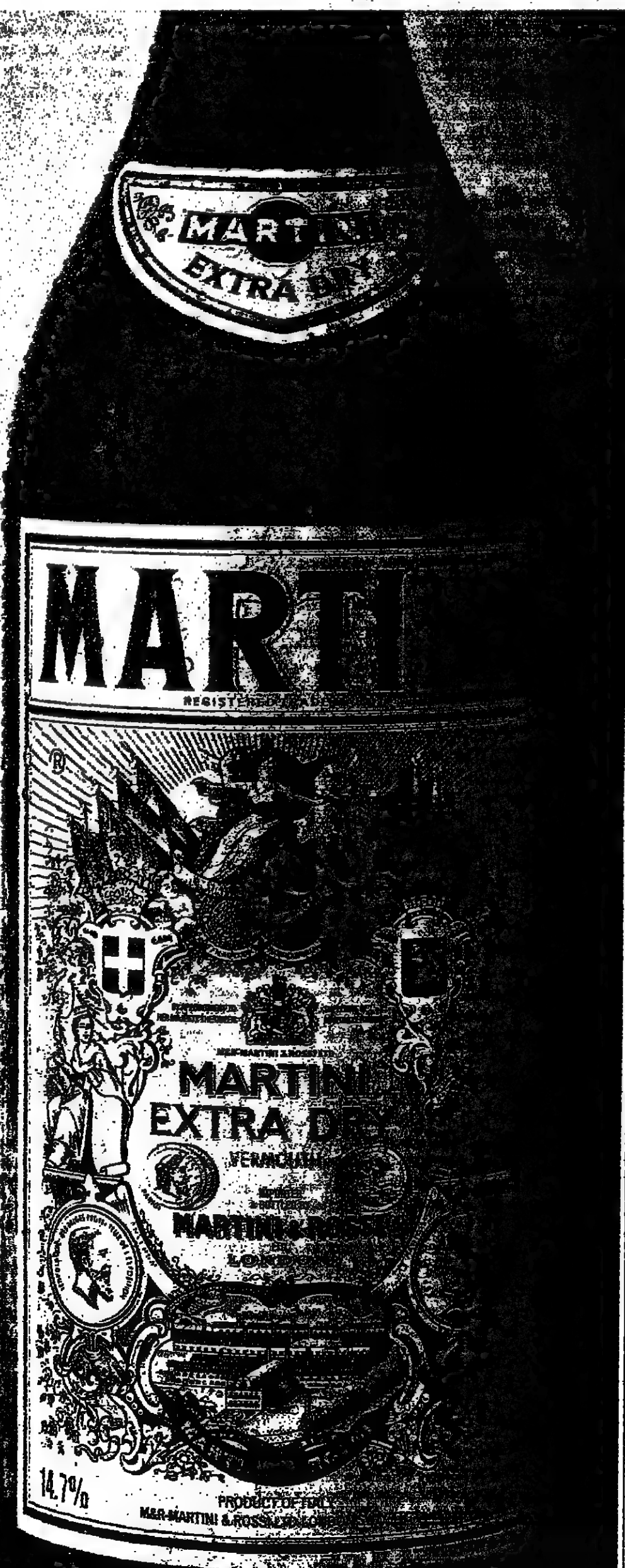
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THAT'S

ISN'T THAT A REFRESHING IDEA?

COOL.

MARTINI



Starting on Monday, answer a simple question and win one of five luxury weekend breaks for two in France. Each weekend will be spent in a Relais & Châteaux hotel, and free car hire will be included.



1992-1993

Pack up a moor-ish meal

Frances Bissell,
The Times cook,
prepares for the
Glorious Twelfth
with a hearty picnic
for a shooting party



LET me confess right now, since I am sure to drop unwitting hints that will give the game away: I have never prepared food for a shooting picnic (or should I say shooting party?). However, I am a great fan of Edwardian novels with their shooting party set pieces — the sources of inspiration for today's recipes, which round off several weeks of ideas for outdoor eating, and which will be perfect for a day out on the Glorious Twelfth, although you will not yet have fresh young grouse for the first recipe.

If there was a chill start to the day, a flask of beef or game consommé with a shot of rum or sherry in it would be welcome. And a wide-mouthed vacuum jug containing a casserole would be a good idea. Beef and pigeon or venison cooked in port, red wine and some herbs fit the bill rather better than a pale casserole of chicken or rabbit in white wine.

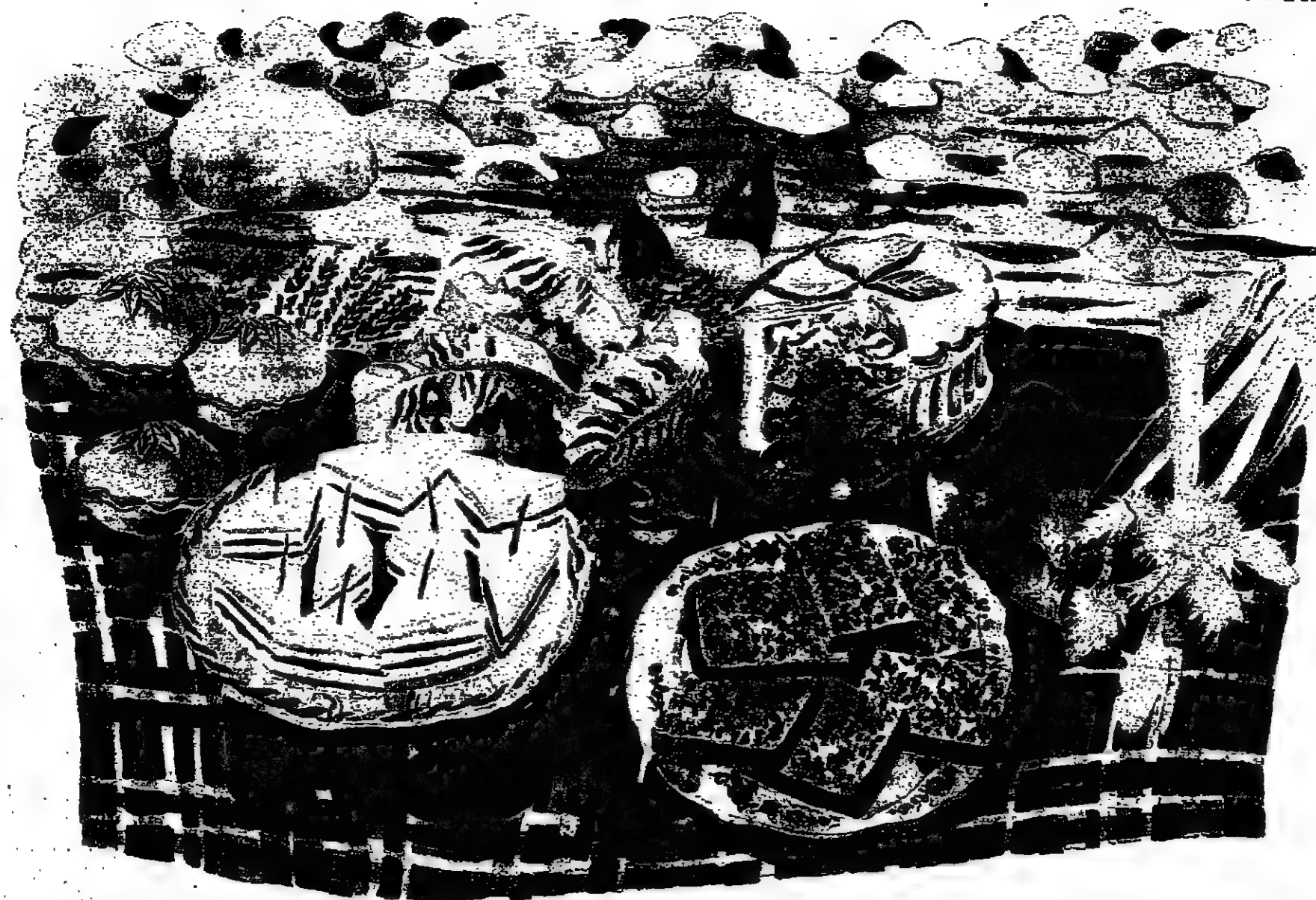
Easily transportable food that does not crumble or go moist, limp or greasy is imperative. Sturdy fruit cakes and well-filled pies make excellent cold food, and have the advantage that they can, if needs be, be eaten on the move — essential if you are stalking deer for hours on end. I would have thought.

Sandwiches remain one of my favourite foods for picnics and for snacks, and they will be perfect for a shooting lunch, whether on the move or not. Cold roast meat or game is an obvious choice for filling, either sliced or potted. The recipe I have given for spiced, pressed beef and grouse can be adapted to other game meats in season, or can be used for beef alone.

Lettuce hearts, celery and firm but ripe tomatoes would help down all the starch and protein and be refreshingly crisp if the weather is warm. Ginger biscuits, shortbread and dark bitter chocolate would accompany the flask of coffee.

The first job would be to find a fast-flowing stream or deep cold burn in which to chill the bottles of cider that I would include in my imaginary shooting lunch.

Spiced pressed beef with grouse
(serves 10 as a starter, or use as a sandwich filling)
2lb/900g rump steak in a thick piece
breasts of 2 young grouse
pepper
6 juniper berries
6 cloves



5 allspice berries
large blade of mace
1 pt/70ml port
1 pt/70ml beef or game stock made from the trimmings of grouse carcasses and beef
1 bay leaf
clarified butter

Slice steak about 1/2 in thick. Remove fillets from under the grouse breasts, and cut the breasts into strips or slices of a similar thickness to the beef. Layer the meat in a terrine. Season lightly with pepper and scatter the spices over the meat. Pour the port and stock over the meat and place the bay leaf on top. Cover with foil and cook in the bottom half of a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 until the meat is just cooked through and tender. Remove from the oven and drain off the cooking juices, which can be reserved for another dish. Cover the meat with foil again, weight down to press it down, cool and then refrigerate for several hours. The meat can then be thinly sliced if using it immediately, or it can be covered

with clarified butter for use in two to three days.

Potted beef and grouse

The ingredients used in the previous recipe will also make potted meat. Prepare, season and cook the meat as described above. When cooked, drain off the juices and put the meat in a processor or mincer with about 1/2 lb/110g butter and a little of the cooking juice. Mince or process until smooth, and pack into ramekins to be covered with clarified butter, if it is to be served as a starter, or use the meat as a spread for sandwiches.

Little game pie
(makes 24 individual pies)
1lb/455g cooked meat off the bone, rabbit, grouse, pigeon or venison or mixture
3oz/85g raisins
3oz/85g sultanas
1 apple
3oz/85g pineapples or blanched almonds, chopped
3oz/85g light muscovado sugar
juice and grated zest of a lemon

1 pt/270ml game stock, gravy or cooking juices
1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped
1 tsp finely chopped parsley
salt, pepper
ground mace or nutmeg
ground allspice
1 lb/340g plain shortcrust pastry
beaten egg and milk to glaze

Chop the meat and put in a bowl with the fruit, nuts, sugar, lemon, stock, onion and parsley. Add salt, pepper and spices to taste, bearing in mind that dishes served cold often need a little more seasoning. Roll out the pastry, and use two thirds to line bun tins. Spoon in the filling and cover with pastry lids cut from the remaining pastry. Brush with the egg and milk, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F gas mark 4 for 35-40 minutes.

Herb and ham pie
(serves 4-6)
1 lb/455g shortcrust pastry
1 lb/455g gammon or bacon slices
1 lb/230g spinach, washed, blanched and dried

1 lb/230g tender leeks, washed, blanched and dried
chervil, parsley
French tarragon
4 free-range eggs
4 tsp cream or stock
freshly ground pepper
beaten egg and milk glaze

Line a pie dish with half the pastry. Cut the ham or bacon into pieces and place in the pie. Chop the green vegetables and herbs and mix with a couple of tablespoons of chervil and parsley and rather less of tarragon and spoon on top of the bacon. Beat the eggs, cream or stock and a little pepper and pour over the filling. Roll out the remaining pastry to make a lid. Seal the edges and brush with the glaze. Place on a baking tray, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for about 40 minutes.

The next recipe is most versatile. Try it later in the year with blackberry, apple and prune butters or with tropical fruits, such as mango, passion fruit and pine-

apple. If you are serving the sandwiches at home, the bread can be lightly toasted on one side and the sandwiches lightly sprinkled with icing sugar.

Club sandwiches with fruit butter

(makes 12)
12 large slices of bread, crusts removed
3 peaches
1 lb/110g strawberries
1 lb/110g raspberries
1 lb/230g unsalted butter, at room temperature
3oz/85g icing sugar

Halve, stone and roughly chop the peaches and hull the strawberries. Process each fruit separately with a third of the butter and sugar. Spread a slice of bread with strawberry butter, and top with another slice. Spread that one with peach butter and cover with another slice. Spread with raspberry butter, and top with the last slice of bread. Cut into four triangles and spear each with cocktail sticks. Prepare the other two rounds in the same way.

FRANCE

GREAT CLASSICS

LA DAUBE
DE BOEUF

SLOW-cooked meat casseroles were a boon to the busy housewife in rural France. The *haeckenoffa* of Alsace and the *estouffade* of Gascony share many of the same features of the *coq au vin* and the *daube*. Tougher and therefore less expensive pieces of meat were put into a pot with herbs, a few vegetables for seasoning, and a generous helping of the local wine, covered and sealed, and put in the bottom of the oven for hours while the many household and farmyard tasks were completed.

We are all just as busy today, which makes a dish like this perfect for a large supper. A green salad of crudites beforehand and fresh fruit and cheese to finish makes this an easy meal to prepare and serve. Four pounds of meat sounds a lot for eight people but it does shrink.

This recipe is based on one given to me by Michel Lorrain, who has just devised a southwest menu for Le Meridien hotel in London.

La daube de bœuf au vin de Madiran

(serves 8)
4 lb/1.80kg beef, chuck or blade, in one piece
1 onion, peeled and chopped
1 carrot, peeled and sliced
1 celery stalk, trimmed and sliced
4 thin slices of Bayonne or Parma ham
1 bottle of Madiran wine
1 pt/570ml beef stock
freshly ground black pepper
1 bouquet garni
1 lb/340g baby carrots
1 lb/340g small pickling onions
1 lb/110g shelled peas
3 oz/100g butter (optional)

Brown the beef all over in a frying pan. Remove, and put to one side. Brown the vegetables. Wrap the piece of meat in the ham slices, and tie it into a neat parcel. Put the meat and vegetables in a casserole and pour in the wine and stock to about three-quarters of the way up the meat. Add the pepper and bouquet garni. Cook in a low oven or over a very low heat for about six hours. Cook the extra vegetables separately half an hour before serving. When the beef is cooked, remove it and keep in a warm place. Strain the cooking juices into a wide saucepan, and reduce by about half. Mount the sauce with butter, if liked, or stir in a little *beurre manié* (equal quantities of flour and softened butter mixed). If using the latter, cook the sauce for ten minutes longer.

To serve, untie the beef, and remove the ham. Cut two or three slices of beef for each plate, add the vegetables. Spoon the sauce over the meat, and garnish with a few shreds of Bayonne or Parma ham.

F.B.

Single malt, multiple choice

Robin Young savours the wide variety of good whiskies available

On Father's Day this year my present was to open *The Independent* and discover that I had unwittingly written a full-page advertisement for The Macallan Speyside single malt whisky.

The Macallan's advertising agency, without attribution or consultation with me, had reproduced my published tasting notes on malt whiskies (not my copyright apparently), adding a line to the effect that since one could not buy them all, one should buy the best. The tasting note on The Macallan was circled in red.

I had not, in fact, said that The Macallan was the best. Nor would I. The last time I did a blind tasting it was an immaculately refined and aristocratically elegant Springbank from Campbeltown (two and a half times distilled, I am told, and not chill filtered) which came out tops.

But the approach is, I think now, easily faulted. The truth is that malt whiskies are the *grands crus* of Scotland, and almost as wonderfully various as wines. There cannot be one best. There have to be many, and among them, it is fair to say, The Macallan would certainly figure.

The Springbank distillery, for example, makes a second style of malt whisky, called Longrow. This is the idiosyncratic, phenolic creation once memorably described by a contemporary as having "the aroma of wet sheep, the attack of tiger's claws". It is not better or worse than Springbank, just markedly different.

It is only in the past 30 years that single malts (whiskies made at one distillery exclusively from malted barley) have been available south of the border. Glenfiddich took the initiative in 1963, and is

still the biggest seller. A gentle and persuasive introduction to the genre, it is the whisky equivalent to a good dry white wine, universally acceptable without being distinctive.

Now single malts are available in bewildering variety. Tesco stocks 25, including five own-labels, the most recent of which, a mild, soft Lowland, has just been launched. Wine Rack and Bottoms Up have Rack and Bottoms Up, with a range of nearly 40, will be offering tastings of The Glenlivet today and Tarama next Saturday.

Malt whiskies differ hugely because there are various ways of malting the barley, mashing the malt, fermenting the wort and distilling the whisky. Then the spirit may be matured in casks which previously contained different drinks, most importantly sherry and bourbon, which donate quite different tastes to the finished product.

The water supply to each distillery makes an important contribution, as does the particular nature of the local peat used in kilning. Whisky folk used in Kilning. Whisky folk used in Kilning. Whisky folk used in Kilning.

Which you finally select may be decided by sentimental considerations. Many distilleries welcome visitors and the well-organised tours offered at, for example, Glenfiddich, The Glenlivet and Glenfiddich on Speyside's "malt whisky trail" and at Bowmore on Islay must have recruited many loyal customers.

Curiosity can play a part, too. Glenmorangie attracts interest to its light and distinctive smoky, fruity character by boasting about its excep-



Master blender: Jim Milne of the Knockando distillery

Best buys

• **Tesco Islay Ten Year Old Malt Whisky, £10.95**
A delicate, elegant, peaty-spiced Islay.
• **Tesco 1972 Traditional Campbeltown Malt Whisky, £22.99**
Flagship to the Tesco range. Fragrant, smooth, complex.
• **The Macallan 10-year-old Thresher, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, £18.79; Waitrose, £19.75; The Victoria Wine Company, £19.85; Tesco, £19.69; Odalbins, £19.99**
Aged in dry oloroso sherry casks, exceptionally smooth, beautifully balanced.
• **Springbank 21-year-old, 44% Odalbins, £36**
Exceptional complexity from the Campbeltown distillery.
• **Knockando 1978 Odalbins, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, £19.99**
Is this new release marginally sweeter and fruitier than the 1977 and 1976 which may still be in the shops? That's the sort of subtle difference that keeps malt whisky enthusiasts sipping.

tionally tall pot stills. No doubt some will want to try the pungently sweet-scented Edradour, which tastes of mint, honey and nuts, simply because it comes from Scotland's smallest distillery. I hope they will not be deterred because it also happens to belong to one of the world's biggest drink companies, Pernod Group.

For those wanting to box the

compass, Bruichladdich, an island malt of particular elegance, delicacy and charm, is from the most westerly working distillery (on Islay), while the round, full and deeply smoke-flavoured Highland Park is from the most northerly (outside Kirkwall on Orkney), and chrysos Bladnoch from the most southerly, by the Solway Firth.

Others may prefer to graduate from their favourite blended brand to its leading malt component: tangy Balblair, for example, is an important component of Ballantine's, easy-drinking, warmly gingerish Cardhu is the leading runner from the Johnny Walker stables. Strathisla plays a part in Chivas Regal, and incisively fragrant Knockando contributes its tinge to the winey and complex subtlety of J&B Rare.

The Macallan and the other great Speysides, Glenfiddich and The Glenlivet, are for power and purity, like *premier cru classé* Pauillac among clarets.

Following the wine analogy the peaty, iodine-scented Islay malts, which include Skye's spicy Talisker, acidly pungent Isle of Jura, Bowmore and Highland Park, are a style that people tend to either love or loathe. Bunnahabhain and Bruichladdich from Islay are the gentlest introductions, while the equivalent of Zind-Humbrecht's *grands crus* (the most powerful) are peat-reeking, iodine-stenching Laphroaig and Lagavulin.

Eat your browns and purples

Tired of greens? Try Scottish seaweed for a healthy change

Scotland has a new food to add to its traditional repertoire of salmon, shellfish, shortbread and steaks. But is the rest of Britain ready for sea vegetables? Will people who have always been rather reluctant to eat up their greens now stomach browns and purples?

Using traditional Scottish non-meat-based, sea vegetables are sold under names such as dulse, slabhagan (pronounced sla'chen), dabblerocks and grockle. In plain English they would be called seaweed, because that is what they are.

If you were to design the perfect food for the 1990s, enthusiasts claim, this would be it. Sea vegetables contain important minerals, such as calcium and iron; vital trace elements such as iodine, zinc, magnesium and potassium; and essential vitamins from groups A, B and C. Yet they have no cholesterol and so little fat they contain practically no calories at all. They pack up to 25 per cent protein in their own right and are quite delicious, yet they are still totally unfamiliar outside Japanese restaurants.

Internationally, Scotland lags a little. The Emperor Sea Teu of China declared: "Sea vegetables are a delicacy fit for the most honoured guest", and that was in the 6th century BC. On the other hand, the "fried seaweed" served in most oriental restaurants in Britain these days is no more than deep-fried shredded lettuce.

Scotland's sea vegetables are at least guaranteed to be the real thing. In Britain, Julian Clotie is the pioneer of sea vegetable marketing. He runs Clotie's Scottish Sea Vegetables from Fearn in Ross-shire, north of Inverness, and has established himself as Britain's principal supplier of wild British sea vegetables.

With the assistance of an

informal team of hunter-gatherers, he harvests seven varieties from the areas of the coastline of Ross-shire, Caithness and Sutherland, where water purity, light penetration, temperature and the depth of the sea-bed help the wild seaweeds to flourish most abundantly. Each variety has to be collected in the few short weeks of each year that it is in its prime.

The seaweeds (sorry, sea vegetables) are then fastidiously dried to maintain the absolute cleanliness, consistency and taste of the product, and packed for sale in 15-gram packets. Each packet comes with a helpful recipe attached to assist those who are inexperienced in seaweed cookery.

Though 15 grams sounds a rather minute quantity, the seaweed when soaked bulks out marvellously so that users find a very little goes a long way. Each packet will provide enough for several meals.

Scottish Sea Vegetables now sells dried seaweed to more than 100 hotels and restaurants, its sales much assisted by chef's growing interest in oriental cuisine and healthy eating.

One of Clotie's customers, Robyn Aitchison of the Dower House near Muir of Ord in Scotland, found that rather than having a strong flavour of their own, sea vegetables enhanced the subtle flavour of other ingredients.

He uses the sea vegetables to wrap fish terrines, to serve with marinated squid in a light vinaigrette, to fry alongside scallops and bacon, and to accompany eggs and lamb. Using all seven varieties he reckons to get through about two kilograms in a season.

Mr Clotie's own recipes include dabblerocks soup; sea vegetable ratatouille with a dash of autumn dulse; sugar ware salad; and kumil and nori



Sea food: Thoby Young (above) and his daughter Maud, aged three, with dishes made from Julian Clotie's seaweed for Mr Young's firm The Fresh Food Co. (071-402 5414). In the bowl, dulse seaweed is mixed with sliced cucumber and dressed with rice vinegar, soy sauce, salt and sugar. Summerfruit jelly is a mixture of raspberries, blueberries and blackberries set in carrageen (seaweed) jelly.

hash made with slabhagan, the nutrient-rich British seaweed most closely akin to Japanese nori, which resembles sheets of black paper. Slabhagan is also good for stir-frying or for deep-frying, and for adding to soups, casseroles and stews.

Another possibility is to make sea-vegetable lasagne using finger ware, a seaweed which was once a staple food-stuff on the North American coast, to replace the pasta.

My favourite recipe, simply because it is so quick and easy, is to mash some spring dulse

into potatoes for a nutritious and flavoursome marine version of bubble and squeak.

Mr Clotie is willing to give further advice about methods of cooking and presentation over the phone, but once started most customers find that sea vegetables are both easy and interesting to use. They make a change from Haggis, anyway.

R.Y.

• Clotie's Scottish Sea Vegetables, Pitkerrie, Balmuchie, Fearn, Ross-shire, IV20 1TN (0862 87272).

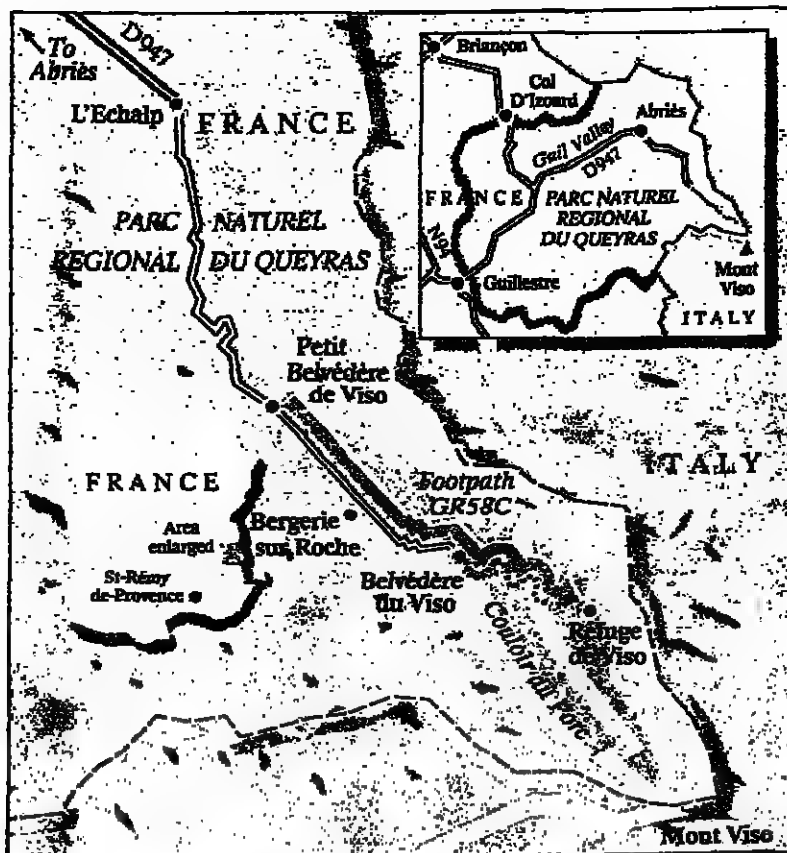
THE ALPS IN SUMMER

WHERE TO WALK

IN THE very week that a bundle of 13th-century tally sticks sold for £15,000 at Sotheby's, I watched a French shepherdess cutting notches in a piece of wood to record the number of sheep in her flock. The sheep-pen was at 2,400m (7,880ft) in the Parc Naturel Régional du Queyras, and Annie the shepherdess was taking charge of 1,500 sure-footed Merinos d'Aries, which had travelled overnight by lorry from St-Rémy-de-Provence to their traditional summer pasture in the Hautes Alpes.

The morning had been spent organising a helicopter lift of the season's supplies to the huts that would be her quarters higher up the mountainside as summer progressed. There were sacks of salt for the sheep, macaroni and wine for Annie, and hard tack for the dog. Once upon a time a donkey would have carried the stores, but now a helicopter stocked three shepherdesses' cabins and a climber's refuge in a single morning.

We ate hot spaghetti and cold roast lamb at the shepherdess' base camp, the



SHONA CRAWFORD POOLE



Bell-shaped beauty: a wild flower

Bergerie sur Roche, then I tagged along while the flock's owner, René Tramier, walked with Annie up to the highest cabins, briefing her on the limits of his grazing rights and matters of flock management. On the way up we met walkers carrying heavy packs who were making for the Refuge de Viso that stands a few steps away from the bergerie. Its water supply is the stream outside the door, and the view across the Col d'Izard to the 3,841m (12,599ft) summit of Mont Viso is worth the climb.

This is not an epic walk. It is a decent uphill stretch of legs and lungs where the road runs out high in the Gail Valley on the approaches to Mont Viso. Driving to the starting point there is a choice of two routes from Briançon to Abries, the last village of any size on the D947. If the weather is fine, take the Col d'Izard in one direction and the longer N94 route via Guillette going back. (The road across the col is narrow, exposed and unfenced. It could be unnerving, not to say dangerous in bad visibility.)

Park at the Petit Belvédère de Viso: cars are permitted no further. A metalled road continues for just over 3km to the Belvédère du Viso, where the road ends. A shuttle-bus covers this stretch. The refuge, which had been visible from lower down, is hidden at this point, but a distinct path setting

Greener pastures: a neat flock of Merinos d'Aries in the Hautes Alpes

off in the direction of Mont Viso leads to it. The distance is no more than another couple of kilometres but it is a good climb, crossing tumbling streams on stepping stones and the long-distance GR58C footpath.

In late June the Alpine flowers were blooming in encyclopaedic profusion, offering a textbook picture of how the style and pattern of the flora change as the altitude rises. Below the Petit Belvédère the grass was knee-high, a lush meadow of cornflowers and buttercups, anemones, vetches, campions, and dozens more. Higher there were carpets of forget-me-nots and cowslips, and the big yellow relative of the blue Alpine gentian that is used to flavour the aperitif Suze. Higher still, from the end of the metalled road, there were brilliant blue gentians by the eye-fuelling snuggly down in short,

windblown turf with violets and tussocks of saxifrage.

Coming down again by the same path, we took a detour off to the right and a short climb to the long-deserted ruins of a stone farm. It had been an extensive structure with no outbuildings. All the storerooms and the animals' quarters had been under one roof, enabling men and beasts to sit out the fiercest storms.

A comparable survival technique is used by the Alpine marmots which come out to play as soon as the snow melts. These burly rodents have a lively curiosity. Like rabbits, they live in extensive warrens with entrances under bushes and boulders. We saw dozens of them that day, but the shy marmot, a big-horned wild sheep that had been spotted earlier by one of the shepherds, was a no-show.

Just as well that Hannibal's elephants could not map-read, or they would never have let themselves be persuaded to cross the Alps. One glimpse of the roads squiggling methodically across jostling contour lines would have told them all they needed to know about the precipitous difficulty of the terrain. Distances of no great span as the crow flies — though in these parts it is as likely to be its cousin the chough, or an eagle — are multiplied by hairpin bends laid down in coils so elaborate that they could be diagrams of intestinal anguish.

In winter, and for much of the year either side of it, the high mountain passes are not passes at all, but snowbound barriers to passage. These are places where spring comes late and snow flurries early, where until well into this century villages in the high valleys were cut off even from their nearest neighbours for midwinter months at a time.

I suspect that natives and lowlanders see the land quite differently, that while the visitor's view is filled by the grandeur of the mountains, what the mountain man sees is the pattern of the valleys. The peak in front of him is the way to, or the barrier from, an adjacent valley, the next habitable or exploitable place. Here harsh territory breeds strong, self-sufficient people. They have had to be. Taciturn, too, which is a necessary survival tactic where there has been no getting away from the neighbours for much of the year. Within living memory the dead of Val d'Isère were parked out on the snowy roofs until the spring thaw made burial possible.

Extremes of vertical geography and consequent extremes of climate have moulded people whose pastoral livelihood once depended on the fabled richness of alpine meadow grass, in the brief, high-altitude summers of hay and cheesemaking. Now they have tourism, too, a gregarious skiing season from December to April, then a short, sharp summer season in July and August. In between the Alps are as good as closed. Hotels are shuttered. Restaurants draw their blinds. Lifts stand still. And, there is no denying, it rains a lot.

All of which explains the black hole in Michelin's galactic map of France. There is a promising

When the ski-lifts stop and the snow melts away, the Alps dress and become barely recognisable. Shona Crawford the high roads and finds the mountain scenery just as major

cluster of stars for gastronomic excellence round Lake Annecy, industrial Albertville and ski-chic Courchevel have two apices, but then there is not another resented table until the Mediterranean. The reason is not hard to fathom. Kitchens good enough to impress guidebook inspectors depend on polished teamwork as well as the brilliance of individual chefs. Even the greatest have difficulty keeping a brigade in top form when working not much more than half the year. So to find the sun out and mountain passes open, perennials blooming and tables laid, one must explore the alpine wilds in high summer.

The classic touring journey, the route des grandes Alpes, is a 462km passage south from Evian on the shores of Lake Geneva, hugging the Italian border all the way to Nice on the Côte d'Azur by way of Chamonix and Mont Blanc, the ski resorts of the Tarentaise, up over the Col d'Isère, on to the fortress town of Briançon, and down through the southern Alps as far as the sea. Another popular itinerary, the route des Préalpes in the Michelin green guide to Savoie-Dauphiné, takes a westerly course from Evian to the regional capital of Grenoble via Annecy, Aix-les-Bains and Chambéry. I drove bits of both routes to put Briançon and Annecy at either end of an itinerary that started on, for me, unfamiliar territory.

Billed as the highest town in Europe at 4,227ft, with fortifications by Vauban, Briançon should be spectacular, and it is. It glowers over the meeting point of four cavernous valleys, a model military stronghold on high ground, surrounded on all sides by the sort of craggy peaks that are better caught by engraving than by photography. The 18th-century works of Louis XIV's great military architect, Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban, define the ville haute, the walled town dominated by its citadelle. Real life is still lived in the antique houses crammed hither-thither up steep streets. Butcher

and baker flourish between souvenir and craft shops.

Modern Briançon, spilling downhill to where the river Durance meets the Guisane, is pleasant but unremarkable, except for the number of health-food shops and stores selling highly technical and highly coloured clothing and kit for every conceivable form of outdoor sport. One of the newer pastimes, demanding crash helmets, life jackets and safety lines, is the white-water sport of canyoning (now there's a word to make members of the Académie française weep into their soup).

Minibuses packed with curiously garbed practitioners of escalade, via ferrata, parapente and raft are a common sight on the mountain roads in summer, but the bulging muscles in shining Lycra of the indomitable French cyclist are

ubiquitous, even in this testing terrain. Grinding up the mountain roads in first and second gear can feel like hard work in a decent car, never mind a bike. On the descents, cyclists spin past cars, freewheeling downhill at tremendous speed.

I was overtaken by cyclists in shiny black and shocking pink at the drab summit of Col du Galbier. The view of the pass may be uninspiring but the views from it, at 3,652ft, are majestic. The road back to Briançon snaked away south along the Guisane valley. South rose the snow-topped peaks of the Massif des Écrins, national parkland fringed by the ski resorts of Serre Chevalier, La Grave and Les Deux Alpes.

Heading north in the direction of the valley of the river Ar and the Vanoise national park

WHAT TO BUY



Regional flavours: try the sausages, cheeses and garlic

NOBODY goes to the Alps to shop unless looking for a wider-than-usual choice of fondus. Dedicated shoppers will find lots to buy, of course, but the only notable bargains occur at the end of the skiing and summer seasons, when the sporting goods shops sell off their stock. Shop-soiled tennis shoes and clothes in last season's colours to be had at knock-down prices.

● This being serious walking and climbing country, maps on a scale large enough to resemble landscape drawings are sold in village newsagents. The 1cm to 1km *Serie Verte*, put out by the Institut Géographique National, conveys serious temptation to the compulsive map fan.

● Knives — penknives, hunting knives, sheath knives and knives for many an esoteric purpose — are also available in exceptional variety. The best prices can be found where competition is fiercest, in towns such as Annecy and Chamonix.

● Sheepskins and slippers, and mittens and clothing made from them, are sold in every market, as are locally produced honey, and, of course, cheeses.

● Alpine cheeses merit study and those who sell them are invariably delighted to offer little bits to taste. There are some splendid specialist shops where one will be offered, for example, mature Beaufort made with summer milk. This is France's answer to Swiss Gruyère, and on no account to be missed. It travels well and is best bought

in large pieces, say a kilogram at a time. Robbers made on farms above the Col de Bluffy in the Thônes valley, and bought at the farm gate or in Annecy market are of a size to buy whole and bring home. Tommes of various sorts are ubiquitous throughout the Alps and almost every village has its own particular recipe. Some are much nicer than others, so try to taste first.

● In addition to these mature cheeses there is an enormous variety of soft cheeses made on the farms from cow's, goat's and ewe's milk, and sometimes a mixture. These are at their peak in summer, when rich pasture produces rich milk.

● The dry Alpine air is ideal for producing air-dried meats and sausages. The local *salo mi-style* sausages, made from pork and sometimes coated in herbs or crushed pepper, are excellent, as is the *jambon cru*, a salt-cured and air-dried ham eaten thinly sliced as an hors d'oeuvre. This is traditionally served with little gherkins called *oignons*.

● Annecy's market, held in the streets of the old quarter every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday, is worth a detour. It is as good a place as any to buy traditional produce. Smallholders and farmers sell their own produce alongside market traders. In addition, there is an antiques market held here on the last Saturday of every month.

● Two specialist cheese shops in Annecy offer expert advice and tasting: *Le From*, 12 rue Salate Claire, and *Caves Carnot*, 73 rue Carnot.

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WHERE TO EAT

WHAT with the scenery and the spoils-for-choice variety of cheeses and breads on sale throughout the Alps, it would be a crime not to have a few picnic lunches. And with so many accessible icy streams at hand to chill a bottle or two of light, white Apresmont, no excuse is available. Finish with Alpine strawberries or tarts filled with deep purple myrtles.

The most luxurious dining can also be outside in fine weather at several good restaurants on the shore of Lake Annecy. Service at lakeside tables under the pale blue umbrellas of L'Ange du Père Bleu (Talloires, 010 33 50 60 72 01) is as polished outdoors as it is inside. Cooking ranges from fresh coqs sautés with garlic and parsley to elaborate specialties of the *tatin de pommes de terre*, *truffes à foie gras* germe. Nothing nouvelle here. The *blanquette de homard breton* was based on a perfectly cooked lobster taken out of its shell and dished with a light cream sauce done with pea-sized onions. My lake fish cooked à la meunière would have been hard to better, and the pudding trolleys (yes, plural) proved irresistible. Menus at FF450 (£45), FF650 (£65) and FF950 (£100) a head. The most expensive menu makes a feature of truffles.

I was disappointed not to

have had an opportunity to try Marc Veyrat's cooking at the Auberge de L'Eridan (Veyrier-du-Lac, 50 60 24 00). To his originality and good reputation he recently added a new and lovely lakeside setting. The menu descriptions are tantalising. Shall we begin with *la terrine de saumon à l'herbe d'acha* (plat rustique, arôme de céleri), or *le melon glacé, sa décoration d'herbes sauvages*. Menus at FF300 (£32) weekdays for lunch only, FF490 (£52), and FF900 (£95) a head.

Le Pied de la Gargouille (92 20 12 95) in the much-photographed main street of Briançon *haute ville*, the Grande Rue, describes itself as a *restaurant campagnard*. Meat is carefully cooked over a wood fire and potatoes baked in it. The style is simple and fresh and the prices affordable, about FF350 (£35) for two, with house wine.

Service at Le Pêche Gourmand (Route Gap, Briançon, 92 20 11 02) was slightly gauche and the food included triumphs and dishes that tried hard and missed. A langoustine and mushroom soup under a pastry lid tasted of raw wine. Tender lamb served with potato and celeriac mashed together worked well. The crème brûlée was astonishingly good. About FF595 (£60) for two.

WHAT TO DO

● People who go to the Alps in summer go there to do things. They are, by handsome majority, doers rather than those who would-be-done-unto. The things they go there to do are often strenuous, sometimes exciting, and not infrequently dangerous. To the traditional pastimes of walking, climbing, fishing, horse-riding, bobsledding and the odd game of tennis have been added summer skiing on the glaciers, grass-skiing in the meadows, mountain-biking, four-wheel driving, archery, water gymnastics, hydrospeed (white-water swimming with flippers and a streamlined float), rafting and many more, including canyoning.

● One of the most visible of the newer pastimes is *parapente*, which fills the sky on every fine day with brightly coloured flocks of steerable parachutes. No other form of flying costs so little or requires so little assistance. The parachute fits in a backpack, and pilot and pack can be transported to the mountain-tops on ski-lifts. Getting airborne is just a matter of running downhill until the "wing" reaches flying speed and rises into the air. In favourable weather conditions it is possible to stay aloft for hours at a stretch using no more fuel than breakfast. *Baptême de l'air* is the phrase signifying the availability of air experience flights, or joy rides.

● Once in the Alps it is very easy to try all these activities, either individually or as part of a multi-activity package. Each of the Alpine towns and larger villages has its own tourist information centre, where the locality struts its stuff in free pamphlets and brochures explaining the available trips and training courses.

● Abries Office de Tourisme (010 33 92 46 72 26), Abries-Bains Office de Tourisme (79 35 05 92), Albertville Office de Tourisme (79 32 04 22), Annecy Office de Tourisme (50 45 00 33), Bourg-St-Maurice Office de Tourisme (79 07 04 92), Briançon Office de Tourisme (92 21 08 50), Chamonix Office de Tourisme (50 53 00 24), Queyras Office de Promotion (92 45 76 18), Serre Chevalier Office de Tourisme (92 24 71 88), Vallée Office de Tourisme (79 59 03 96), Veyrier-du-Lac Syndicat d'Initiative (50 60 22 71).

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IN SUMMER

on their summer Poole takes ic in the sunshine

the only road passes through
Valloire, a pleasant village in a
hollow which is an oasis of
simple outdoor pleasures.

The Arc valley is better known
as the Maurienne, a name
combining the patois words of
mau and riu which translate as
wicked river. Whatever ferocity
the stream may once have
demonstrated has now been
tamed for power and industry,
which combine with heavy traffic
from the Fréjus tunnel and
Mont Cenis passes into Italy to
produce long stretches of gothic
griminess. But from Modane
onwards the villages of the
upper Maurienne retain more
of their traditional character.

Stone, not wood, is the building
material in this part of the
Alps, and the village houses
clustered tightly together round
farmyards, narrow lanes and
minuscule vegetable plots have
splendid roofs paved in lauzes,
impressively large slabs of the
local schist. Beneath eaves built
deep to carry snow away from
the thick walls and few small
windows, the winter's supply of
firewood dries on rough wooden
balconies. Haylofts insulate the
family below, which once
shared the ground floor with the
warmth of its animals.

The best preserved of these
villages is Bonneval-sur-Arc,
where electricity and telephone
wires and television aerials have
been hidden, and cars parked,
in an attempt to maintain
semblance of bucolic authenticity.
It works well up to a point,
and when it is quiet it is not hard
to imagine a scene of village life
100 years ago or more.

Only one road leads out of
Bonneval and it climbs to the
highest pass in France, the Col
d'Iser, which still had snow in
late June, although the road was
clear. Last time I was up here
the scene had been a dazzling
white wonderland populated by
brilliantly clad skiers. In summer
the acres of grey shale and
pylons of the ski lifts give the
place a baleful aspect. Moon-
light out of industrial waste-
land. Not somewhere to hang
round.

It was the oddest feeling,
riving down to Le Fornet and
al d'Iser, to feel disoriented

on ground I had skied over so
often. A glimpse of recognition,
then lost again. And shocking,
on every side, the scars of what
the skiing industry does to the
mountain landscape. The damage
is not a pretty sight
in summer.

Val d'Iser looked quite awful,
too. Although big efforts were
made to improve its boom-town
looks for last winter's Olympics,
it looks more bust than boom
without thick duvets of snow on
roofs and icicles hanging from
the eaves. And too little of the
town opens in summer to create
a good holiday mood. The
tourist office has a brochure of
summer sporting activities, but
the list of hotels and restaurants
which are open is short.

Tignes, Val's winter
sporting neighbour,
fares little better, but
further down the Isère
valley the rushing streams and
lush vegetation of the *haute*
Tarentaise make picture post-
card views of domesticated al-
pine scenery. In Ste-Foy-
Tarentaise an elderly couple
were haymaking with scythes,
gathering the grass from the
ground round their chalet. Veg-
etable gardens cling to steep
slopes as if hung out to dry.

From Bourg-St-Maurice, the
regional agricultural centre,
through Agnières to Albertville,
axis of last winter's Olympics,
the valley opens out. The scale
becomes grander, the scene
gradually less rural. Albertville
is a crossroads (sometimes a
bottleneck). Turn west for
Chambéry and Aix, east for
Chamonix, the great climbing
resort and centre of alpinism. I
headed for lovely, animated
Annecy with its misty lake, its
sailing boats and pretty water-
side hotels, and fishermen out in
small boats at dawn and dusk.

Their quarry is the *omble*
chevalier, a fish found only in
the deep, clean waters of the
Alpine lakes, and so esteemed
for its rarity as well as its eating
qualities. These are good, espe-
cially when the cook is Sophie
Bise of the legendary Auberge
du Père Bise on the lakeside at
the village of Talloires. It was to
Sophie's great-grandfather that
Cézanne, when short of cash,
offered a painting in payment
for his lunch. Now there was an
offer that should not have been
refused.

Next week: Alsace Lorraine



Bucolic beauty: in well-preserved Bonneval it is not hard to imagine a scene of simple village life 100 years ago

HOW TO GET THERE

LYONS is the gateway to the Alps for motorists driving out from Britain and for air travellers. Air France Holidays (081-508 0981) has fly-drive packages based on flights from London Heathrow to Lyons (April to December only). Prices for two people sharing a group-A car start at £210 each for seven days. Anything less than a two-litre engine is underpowered for the mountain roads, so the minimum hire category I would settle for would be group C, which from Hertz is a Ford Sierra or a Peugeot 405, at £288. There is a high season (July to September) supplement of £22 a person.

● T.A.T. European Airlines (0293 568888) flies daily from London Gatwick to Lyons. The advance booking Apex fare is £195 return.

● Train travel can work particularly well for walkers, and the Alps are well served with railway stations and connections. There are, for example, four trains a day from Paris to Briançon. A combined air and rail pass with Air France Holidays, flight Gatwick to Paris and train to Briançon, costs £161 return.

● Return rail travel from London Victoria to Briançon costs from £140.80 and to Moutiers £138 (SNCF inquiries 071-491 1573).

GUIDEBOOKS

COMPARED with groaning shelves of books written in English about areas such as the Loire and Brittany, the Alps are poorly served. Walkers and wildlife enthusiasts are better than anyone interested in the history, and particularly the domestic and agricultural history, of the region. Once there, French speakers will have no difficulty finding a choice of social histories of the area.

● The best book I have found in English is *Savoie, the Land, People and Food of the French Alps*, by Madeleine Kamman, published in America by Atheneum. It can be ordered here through Books Etc., 120 Charing Cross Road, London WC2R 0JR (071-379 6838) and costs £21.

● There are Michelin green guides to the *Alpes du Sud* (Haute-Provence), and the *Alpes du Nord* (Savoie-Dauphiné) which are, as always, concise, informative and pitched at exactly the right level for the holiday visitor. So far these guides are available only in French, at £6.95 each.

● *Wildlife Travelling Companion France*, by Bob Gibbons and Paul Davies (The Crowood Press, Marlborough, Wiltshire, £13.99) has chapters on the flora and fauna of the northern and southern French Alps.

● *The Visitor's Guide To France: Alps & Jura*, by Paul Scola (Moorland Publishing Company, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, £9.99).

EVENTS

IN manifestations the French have a word for their fêtes and festivals which conjures up the guerdness of many of the events. Tourist offices have details of many more local happenings than can be mentioned here. Highlights of the summer season include:

● August 15-23, Val d'Iser: "The largest and highest motor show in the world" is the billing given to the four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicle international motor show. Visitors can "try and approve" all the models on show on the suitably testing terrain of 2,000-hectare Espace Killy.

● August 15, Chamonix and La Grave: Mountain guides' festivals.

● August 15, Valloire: Procession in local costume.

● August 22-23, Aix-les-Bains: Flower festival.

● Other regular events include an international folkloric festival called the Fête de l'Edelweiss at Bourg-St-Maurice in mid-July, and Annecy's lake festival with music and fireworks on the first Saturday of August.

Prices rise with the altitude

PROPERTY

THE French Alps have no
shortage of apartments for sale.
Concrete purpose-built resorts
are littered across the moun-
tain-sides in the popular Savoie
region.

The Winter Olympics, held in
February, encouraged a rash of
building during the past two
years in high-altitude resorts
near Albertville. Now sales are
slow and there is a glut of newly
built holiday flats for sale.

Prices in some places have
been cut by up to 15 per cent
over the past year by developers
eager to offload unsold apart-
ments. The fall in demand has
also had an impact on resale
values, and discounts of up to
5 per cent are available to cash
buyers in some places.

Property prices vary enorm-
ously, mostly depending upon
location and accessibility to the
ski-slopes. High-altitude resorts
in the Savoie region, including
Aéribel, Courchevel and Val
d'Iser are more expensive, but
the letting potential is good.

New flats in the fashionable
sort of Val d'Iser fetch up to
100,000 for one bedroom.
Resale property is better value:
small second-hand flat in the



Snowy mountain high: this chalet in the Lozère is £59,500

same resort is about £32,000.
Elsewhere, prices start at
£25,000 for a tiny studio, and
from £30,000 to £80,000 for
one and two-bedroom flats in
purpose-built blocks. Larger
two and three-bedroom chalets
cost from £80,000 to more than
£400,000.

Property prices drop at lower
altitudes in the Hautes Savoie.
The Portes du Soleil ski area,
between Mont Blanc and Lake
Geneva, is a summer and winter
resort. It is largely rustic and
unspoilt, scattered with pretty

timber-built chalet, with skiing
to the back door.

Further south and west, to-
wards Lake Annecy, La Clusaz
is an attractive old town, situat-
ed about 45 minutes from
Geneva airport. A small flat
here would cost about £30,000.
A traditional timber-framed
chalet, with three or four bed-
rooms, two bathrooms and a
double garage, would cost from
£100,000, including the cost of
the land.

Among the smart shops and
restaurants of Chamonix, at the
foot of Mont Blanc, close to Italy
and only 40 minutes from
Geneva, apartments range from
£35,000 for one bedroom to
£200,000 for a luxury three-
bedroom penthouse.

Those seeking a home for
summer and winter use should
avoid resorts above tree level
(1,800m), which are first and
foremost ski resorts, and turn
into ghost towns out of season.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● UK agents with associates in the
French Alps include Rutherford's
(Savoie), Price Greene House, 7
Chelsea Manor Street, London
SW3 3TW (071-351 4454) and
Alpine Apartments Ltd (Hautes
Savoie), Hinton Manor, Eardis-
land, nr Leominster, Herefordshire
(05447 234).

WHERE TO STAY

ANNECY: For top-notch luxu-
ry, Lake Annecy and the villages
round it offer a wide choice of
gorgeously situated hotels with
deceptively rustic names. Swa-
lows nesting in the eaves of its
terrace overlooking the lake at
L'Auberge du Père Bise at
Talloires (010 33 50 60 72 01)
flex complicated aerial ma-
noeuvres round the breakfast
table. The half-board rate of
FFr1,200-1,600 (£126-168) for
a double room includes dinner
in the two-star (Michelin) res-
taurant. Père Bise is a member
of the Relais & Châteaux con-
sortium for which the UK inquiries
number is 071-491 2516.

There are two more Relais &
Châteaux hotels close by:
L'Auberge de Talloires (50 60
71 33) retains the cloister of its
former role as a 17th-century
Benedictine monastery. Half
board for a double room is
FFr60-995 (£69-105). The
third, and newest of the three, is
chef Marc Veyrat's Auberge de
l'Eridan at Veyrier-du-Lac (50
60 24 00). The former shepherd
and self-taught chef has made
his reputation on a modern
interpretation of Savoyarde cui-



Classy cuisine: chef Marc Veyrat's Auberge de l'Eridan

sine so successfully that the
Gault Millau guide rates
Veyrat's among the top 12
tables in France. Half-board
double room is FFr1,350-2,800
(£142-295). La Demure de
Chavroir, Veyrier-du-Lac (50
60 04 38) is a very small,
exquisitely furnished hotel (ten
rooms and three suites) without
a restaurant. Doubles FFr650-
1,400 (£68-147).
BRIANÇON: the Parc Hotel,
Central Parc (92 20 37 47) is a

40 rooms and a heated pool.
Doubles, half board, FFr520-
550 (£55-58).

CAMPING: The Alps can offer
some of the most idyllically
romantic spots for camping
anywhere. River banks dotted
with Alpine flowers are espe-
cially attractive. Camping sauvage
is not permitted within the
boundaries of the national
parks or in many other places.
However, in this region, many
official campsites are as quiet
and as rural as anyone could
wish. The Michelin guide
Camping and Caravanning
France 1992 costs £6.95 and
lists a well-chosen selection of
campsites throughout the coun-
try with comprehensive details
of their facilities.

The British tour operator
French Country Camping
(0923 261311) offers packages
to several campsites in the Alps
with hotel, ferry and Motorail
options.

VFB Holidays' (0242
526338) Outdoor France bro-
chure has an *Alp Acif* pro-
gramme, offering every kind of
Alpine summer sport at two
centres, La Clusaz and Valloire,
based on hotel, apartment or
chalet accommodation.

CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR IN MEISSEN

ABOARD THE DELUXE RIVER VESSEL - THE PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA

Visiting: Meissen-Dresden-Saxon Switzerland-Potsdam from £795
23-28 DECEMBER 1992 28 DECEMBER-2 JANUARY 1993/3

Join us for from the madding
crowd in Medieval Meissen for a five
night Christmas or New Year break.
Relax aboard the 5 star Princess
of Prussia, moored in one of East
Germany's most picturesque
small towns on the banks of the
River Elbe.

Meissen is an excellent base,
close to Dresden and some of the
most important and extravagant
eighteenth century Baroque
buildings in Germany.

In addition to an interesting and
leisurely-paced itinerary there will
be a visit to the beautifully restored
Semper Opera House in Dresden.
Here there will be a performance of
Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' for those
travelling over Christmas, and for
the New Year travellers there will
be a gala concert on New Year's Eve.

THE PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA

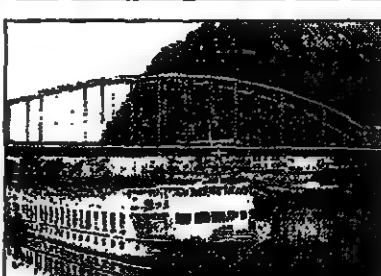
The Princess of Prussia is one
of the finest river vessels in the
world accommodating up to
140 passengers in outside,
well-appointed cabins with shower
and wet the top deck cabins have
French windows whilst the lower
deck offers picture windows. Built
in Yorkshire, she is operated by
Peter Dreimann Cruises with a
German/French crew. The on-
board restaurant offers excellent
cuisine, there is also a lounge,
hairdressers, clinic and shop.

The vessel will be moored on
the Elbe next to the famous Castel
mountain, within walking distance
of the old town of Meissen.

THE ITINERARY CHRISTMAS DEPARTURE

DAY 1 Morning British Airways flight to
Berlin. Drive to Meissen for lunch and
embark on the Princess of Prussia in time
for tea. Dinner on board.

DAY 2 Morning excursion of Meissen
including the Gothic Albrechtsburg Castle
and the thirteenth century Cathedral



where we hope to attend an organ revival.
See the museum, market square and the
Baroque town houses. Lunch on board and
afternoon at leisure. Gala dinner. For those
who wish to attend, there will be midnight
mass in Meissen.

DAY 3 Morning church service at the
Cathedral. Day excursion to the
mountains of Saxon Switzerland with
lunch. Even in winter this area is
extraordinarily beautiful. See Bad
Schandau, a pretty riverside spa town.
Return to the vessel for afternoon tea.
Drive to Dresden for a performance of
'The Magic Flute' at the Opera House.
Late supper.

DAY 4 Morning excursion of Dresden.
Visit the Zwinger, a magnificent 18th
century Baroque building. In the
pavilions see the fine collections of
Oriental and Meissen porcelain and old
master paintings. Free for lunch.
Afternoon visit to the fabulous green
Vaults - the greatest collection of jewellery
and precious objects of art in Europe.
Dinner on board.

DAY 5 Morning visit to the Porcelain
Manufacture for a step by step
demonstration - show rooms, museum and
shop. See St Nicholas Church on the way
back to the vessel. Afternoon free. Evening
walking tour with wine-tasting. Dinner
on board.

DAY 6 Drive to Potsdam. Visit the
Baroque Palace of Sans-Souci built by
Frederick the Great and continue to
Berlin for evening British Airways flight
to Heathrow.

NB The New Year's departure will offer a
similar itinerary.

PRICES PER PERSON

Lower Deck	£795
Upper Deck	£835
Single	£950

Price includes Economy air travel, 5 night's
accommodation including breakfast, dinner
and afternoon tea daily plus four lunches.
Excursions, entrance fees, best available
tickets for the Dresden Opera House, coach
transportation in Germany, guest speaker.
Not included: Travel insurance £140, tip.

HOW TO BOOK

For reservations and further information,
please telephone 071-911 1752.

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Thriving on palace life: the Earl and Countess of Mansfield at Scone, where visitor numbers have increased in the past 21 years from 15,000 a year to about 100,000

Like most peers of the realm, the earls of Mansfield earned their land by an act of loyalty to a king. About 400 years ago in Perth, James VI escaped from one of those labyrinthine Scottish conspiracies through the help of the Murrays. Their payment was generous: ennoblement, together with the gift of the 27,000-acre estate of Scone and the ruins of the ancient episcopal palace, where the early kings of Scotland were once crowned.

Today, the 8th Earl of Mansfield runs Scone Palace with the same lawyer-like efficiency he brings to his job as chairman of the Crown Estates, where he helps to administer 300,000 acres on behalf of the royal family. The roles have intertwined well, he says, in that owning Scone has taught him much about land uses, and the Crown Estates responsibilities offer him an overview of the national patterns of town and countryside.

Scone's green acres reach along both banks of the Tay, just above

At the earl's court

Joy Billington visits a palatial reward of loyalty

Perth. It was in that city, in 1559, that John Knox preached so fiery a sermon that his inflamed followers marched the five miles to Scone and sacked the old abbey and bishop's palace. The present buildings' heart was built some 40 years later, when the land was given to the Murrays, and it was later Gothicised into its present shape.

Of course, Scottish history has more than its share of blood-curdling tales to thrill the tourist. But the legendary Scone coronation stone also ranks high in the hearts of Scottish patriots, including the Murrays. Taken from Scone in the year 1296 by Edward I, it was placed in Westminster

Abbey under the coronation throne, where it has remained ever since, except for one notable adventure. In 1951 it was "removed" from Westminster Abbey by a group of young Scots.

"It was a protest," Lord Mansfield says. "They were the precursors of the Scottish nationalists. In those days, security at Westminster Abbey was virtually nil, so they managed to break in and prise the stone from under the coronation chair, drop it, break it, and put it in the back of an Austin Seven they'd parked in Parliament Square."

"They drove it back to Scotland and offered it to my father, asking him to intercede with the king on

their behalf. He said no, he'd taken an oath of loyalty to George VI, and though he understood their reasons, he couldn't play any part in it. Eventually, the Stone of Destiny was left on the altar at Arbroath Abbey. It was repaired, and returned to Westminster Abbey, where it stays to this day."

In the 21 years since he inherited, in 1971, the 8th earl has built up Scone tourism from 15,000 annually to about 100,000, with the help of an administrator, a staff of guides and a chef who prepares the banquets that give Scone a reputation for good food.

Of Scone's visitors, only 40 per cent are Scots. However, it man-

ages to attract a broad range of people, from the coach parties that are the backbone of its tourism to the well-heeled, who come to shoot pheasant or to fish the Tay for salmon. Scone also maintains a profitable relationship with nearby Gleneagles Hotel for various events, and is a popular venue for business dinners.

Lady Mansfield has taken courses at the V&A to learn more about Scone's various treasures — the collections of French and Italian furniture, the famous Veris Martin papier mâché objets d'art, and the paintings.

She has a practical philosophy about life in a palace. Heating and household help are the essentials, she says, but "there are times when you panic, and think you can't cope, that no fortune can stand it all. And there's the discomfort of having work going on all year round."

● Scone Palace, Perth, is open until October 12. Entrance is £3.70, child £2, family ticket £11.

Region of remote opportunities

The Lozère, an unspoilt mountainous region in the Cévennes, on the south-eastern edge of the Massif Central in southern France, is the least populated of all the French departments — an area about the size of Norfolk, with just one set of traffic lights. The stunning Gorges du Tarn cuts through the region, with deep ravines, clear springs and meandering rivers.

The climate here is extreme: very hot in the summer and cold and bleak in the winter, and it is at least two hours' drive from the nearest international airport, at Montpellier. But for lovers of remote and beautiful places, and for those who want to be miles from their fellow countrymen, this unspoilt part of France is worth considering.

The architecture is simple and rustic: old granite stone cottages and farmhouses with steep roofs, covered in hand-crafted slates with irregular scalloped edges. Houses in the Lozère are often isolated, and set on great chunks of barren land.

The area around the small market town of Florac, a region of forested hills and fertile valleys in the heart of the Cévennes mountains, is probably the most beautiful part of the Lozère.

Here you can buy a run-down farm cottage with two bedrooms and exposed stone walls for about £18,000. For the same price you could buy a rambling old mill house, miles from anywhere, set in four acres of woodland, without electricity and needing restoration.

A larger farmhouse, with thick stone walls, needing complete renovation, can still be found for as little as £30,000. The restored version, with five bedrooms, a swimming-



Buyer's France

THE LOZERE

pool and up to 20 acres of land, is about £200,000.

An abandoned farming hamlet, with a farmhouse, and several stone outbuildings that would convert into gîtes, is on offer for £35,000 through the agents Rutherford, 7 Chelsea Manor Street, London SW3 0TJ (071-351 4454).

Village houses, with two or three bedrooms and small courtyards, start at £25,000 for anything that is habitable. A restored house, with exposed chestnut beams, flagstone floors, and a modern kitchen and bath costs from £35,000.

Not far from Mont Aigoual and the old town of Meyrueis, within the Cévennes National Park, in the south of the Lozère, a charming timber-clad chalet (pictured below), with panoramic lake and forest views, is for sale at £59,500 (including agency fees).

The recently built two-bedroom property is set in half an acre of wooded land. The UK agent is Property France, Portway, Wanage, Oxfordshire (0235 772211).

Allow about a day and a half, with an overnight stop, to drive to the Lozère from the French Channel ports. You can fly from Heathrow or Gatwick to Montpellier.

CHERYL TAYLOR



In isolation: this chalet, with lake and forest views, is £59,500

PROPERTY BUYERS GUIDE

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BARBICAN £350,000 4 bed terraced house, Victorian style, 25 mins to City, Central location. Close to park, swimming pool, quiet street. Levels garden. Tel: 081 360 7650

CHISWICK Sunny Garden flat, 400 sq ft, 2 bed, 2 bath, 20 mins to City, Central location. Close to park, swimming pool, quiet street. Levels garden. Tel: 081 360 7650

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BLACKHEATH £250,000 3 bed, 2 bath, 20 mins to City, Central location. Close to park, swimming pool, quiet street. Levels garden. Tel: 081 360 7650

CHISWICK Sunny Garden flat, 400 sq ft, 2 bed, 2 bath, 20 mins to City, Central location. Close to park, swimming pool, quiet street. Levels garden. Tel: 081 360 7650

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

SANDHURST £350,000 4 bed, 2 bath, 20 mins to City, Central location. Close to park, swimming pool, quiet street. Levels garden. Tel: 081 360 7650

CHISWICK Sunny Garden flat, 400 sq ft, 2 bed, 2 bath, 20 mins to City, Central location. Close to park, swimming pool, quiet street. Levels garden. Tel: 081 360 7650

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Unfurnished Apartments for rent. Rent from approx £5,000 per annum. Includes all services and background heating. Daytime Call 071 628 4548 or 071 628 4241. EVENINGS CALL 071 628 4372

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Located on the Shropshire - Mid Wales border in an area of rural woodland beauty, each home is built to full regulation standards in a half acre

plot, and fully equipped to the highest specification with on site management. Each home averages 35 weeks letting per year.

Investment packages available from £50K to £500K.

This is a superb trouble free secure investment offering capital growth and an attractive income with C.G.T. Rollover to retirement relief.

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THE OCTAGON, 577 FINCHLEY RD, NW11
OUTSTANDING, WHICHEVER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT.

Land back and take a long look at the magnificent eight sided period building on Hampstead's Finchley Road. All of the 20 individually designed apartments boast luxurious interiors and bathrooms, some of the eight maisonettes have private gardens and some of the two bedroom flats have their own terraces.

The four stunning penthouses have at least two bedrooms, double reception rooms, two or three bedrooms, and terraces.

For further details and a brochure please contact Stacey's on 071 794 8254. View today between 11am - 7pm.

BUCKS

LOUGHTON VILLAGE 10 min to M1, 30 min to M4, 30 min to M5, 30 min to M6, 30 min to M7, 30 min to M8, 30 min to M9, 30 min to M10, 30 min to M11, 30 min to M12, 30 min to M13, 30 min to M14, 30 min to M15, 30 min to M16, 30 min to M17, 30 min to M18, 30 min to M19, 30 min to M20, 30 min to M21, 30 min to M22, 30 min to M23, 30 min to M24, 30 min to M25, 30 min to M26, 30 min to M27, 30 min to M28, 30 min to M29, 30 min to M30, 30 min to M31, 30 min to M32, 30 min to M33, 30 min to M34, 30 min to M35, 30 min to M36, 30 min to M37, 30 min to M38, 30 min to M39, 30 min to M40, 30 min to M41, 30 min to M42, 30 min to M43, 30 min to M44, 30 min to M45, 30 min to M46, 30 min to M47, 30 min to M48, 30 min to M49, 30 min to M50, 30 min to M51, 30 min to M52, 30 min to M53, 30 min to M54, 30 min to M55, 30 min to M56, 30 min to M57, 30 min to M58, 30 min to M59, 30 min to M60, 30 min to M61, 30 min to M62, 30 min to M63, 30 min to M64, 30 min to M65, 30 min to M66, 30 min to M67, 30 min to M68, 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Michael Clarkson creates his Celtic-style treasures on the premises. He works with two female apprentices and a male

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her brother, Kenneth, is designing the set. Whether any of the audience sports Davies, Clarkson or McCorkindale remains to be seen.

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BBC1

- 6.40 Open University: Problems with Ions (5816830) 7.05 Maths: Complex Numbers (5700083)-7.30 The Adam Smith Lecture (3873460)
- 7.55 Olympic Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider from Barcelona. Includes at 9.10 News and weather. Equestrian: The final of the individual show jumping competition. Commentary by Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley. Boxing: The last six finals, from welterweight, to super-heavyweight. Cricket: action from the fourth day of the final Test at the Oval between England and Pakistan (51319441)
- 12.00 Sign Extra: Who Really Killed Cock Robin? Murder and incest, land-grabbing and seduction are all part of the everyday life of the robin. With sign language and subtitles (511710)
- 12.30 Countryfile: John Craven investigates the conditions in which 600 million chickens spend their final hours every year (1132460) 12.55 Weather (51817286)
- 1.00 News (72911118)
- 1.05 The High Chaparral. Vintage western drama. An army deserter takes Billy Blue prisoner (7) (6661712). Wales: The National Eisteddfod of Wales 1.45 Cartoons
- 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (n). (Ceefax) (5) (49967)
- 3.00 Eldorado (6). (Ceefax) (5) (9170)
- 3.40 Columbo: Troubled Waters. The dishevelled detective takes a holiday on a cruise liner bound for Mexico, but his rest is disturbed when the ship's singer is murdered. Starring Peter Falk, Patrick Macnee and Robert Vaughn. (Ceefax) (33083)
- 5.00 Olympic Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam from Barcelona. Athletics: 5.30: The final event of the games - the men's marathon: plus a round-up of the day's other events and a look back at the highlights of the past two weeks; 8.30 Closing Ceremony: David Coleman describes the final moments as the Olympic flag is lowered and vows are made to meet in Atlanta in 1996 (8601118)
- 10.00 News with Michael Buick (Ceefax) Weather (647422)



Last frontier? Joan Bakewell on women at war (10.15pm)

- 10.15 Heart of the Matter. CHOICE: Tonight's moral hot potato is whether women should cross one of the last forbidden frontiers and take part in front-line combat. The debate has been reopened by the Gulf war, in which 39,000 women took part and 11 lost their lives, despite being officially banned from the fighting. At the heart of Joan Bakewell's report is an interview with Major Rhonda Cornum, the flight-surgeon from the United States army, who was sexually assaulted by Iraqi guards while a prisoner of war. She is adamant that her experience is not an argument against women serving in combat roles, but many Americans are saying the opposite. Perhaps inevitably, the debate seems to divide along gender lines. Man question whether women have the necessary aggression, women say they should have the right to decide. (275335). Northern Ireland: Championship Special 11.05 Heart of the Matter
- 10.50 Doogie Howser MD. A new series of the American comedy about a teenage medical genius. Doogie learns that agelism can cut both ways (5) (886286)
- 11.15 Film: The Believers (1969). Lively version of a William Faulkner story starring Steve McQueen as a hired hand who takes his boss's car and grandson on a jaunt to Memphis. Directed by Mark Rydell. (Ceefax) (747625). Northern Ireland (to 1.25am): Film: The Reelists. 1.00am Weather (5881126)

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BBC2

- 6.35 Open University: Networks and Partnerships (5822441) 7.00 Nicholson and Wallis at St Ives (5709354) 7.25 A Natural Model (5728489) 7.50 Toulouse. Money and Power in Provincial France (1596422) 8.15 The Industry of Culture (8619002) 8.40 Driven Clean Away (608195)
- 9.05 Articles of Faith. Father Herbert McCabe questions whether prayer should be confined only to spiritual things (n) (6373644)
- 9.20 This is the Day. Norma Craddock jumps down Roy Bann at the Clowns International Charity Event at Bilton Park near Exeter (4582335)
- 9.55 Open University: A Question of Balance (6951712) 10.20 A Europe of the Regions? (5238118) 11.10 Open Forum (1482286) 11.35 Munnis. Sugar Scheme (5269151)
- 12.00 Olympic Grandstand presented by Steve Rider from Barcelona. Includes the second round of the individual show jumping competition, plus highlights of this morning's six boxing finals and news of the men's volleyball final. Cricket: Live coverage of the fourth day of the final Test from the Oval between England and Pakistan (51319441)
- 5.00 Cricket: England v Pakistan. Continued live coverage of the fourth day of the final Test from the Oval (5) (685625)
- 6.25 News and weather (221847)
- 6.40 Songs of Praise from the village of Yardley Hastings in Northamptonshire. (Ceefax) (472460)
- 7.15 Life on Earth: The Compulsive Communicators. In the last of his series, David Attenborough focuses on the origins of humans. His investigation takes him to caves in southern France where stone-age people created paintings of ice-age animals and to Papua New Guinea to find the Bani tribe who had never before set eyes on white people. (Ceefax) (n) (635731)



Bedside vigil: Julie Walters (8.10pm)

- 8.10 Intensive Care. CHOICE: Tonight's play in the Alan Bennett season comes from a 1982 collection called Objects of Affection which was notable for the morbidity of its subject matter. Like several of the others, Intensive Care is set in a hospital and is concerned with death and dying. Bennett himself plays the hero, a schoolteacher in early middle-age, who finds unexpected happiness with the night nurse (Julie Walters) just as his father is breathing his last. A favourite Bennett actress, Thora Hird, completes a trio of fine performances as a formidable aunt. Given its theme the piece could hardly be called a comedy, though there are deeply funny moments. It is not a tragedy either. Rather, it shows tantalisingly between the two, sustained by Bennett's acute delineation of social class and precise ear for the poetry of everyday speech (n) (1879640)
- 9.30 Film: Play Misty for Me (1971) Clint Eastwood and Jessica Walter star in a clever thriller in which a late-night disc jockey is hounded by a besotted listener. Directed by Clint Eastwood (183147)
- 11.00 Cricket. Highlights of the fourth day of the Oval between England and Pakistan (5) (554441)
- 11.40 The Night Stalker. Darren McGavin stars in the supernatural drama series (330731)
- 12.30am Film: Secret Beyond the Door (1948). Joan Bennett and Michael Redgrave star in this gloomy psychological thriller. After a whirlwind romance a woman marries the man of her dreams, but she discovers he has a dark secret. Directed by Fritz Lang (924519). Ends at 2.10

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (7357970)
- 9.25 Disney's Greatest Villains. A compilation of clips featuring some well-known characters audiences love to hate, from the wicked witch in Snow White to Cruella De Ville in 101 Dalmatians (5355204)
- 10.20 The Littlest Hobo. Canine adventure series (6744847)
- 10.45 Link. Novelist and yachtwoman Clare Francis, who has become seriously debilitated by ME, talks to Peter Wright about why so many people refuse to accept that the disease exists. (Oracle) (6406460)
- 11.00 Morning Worship from the Boulevard United Reform Church in Weston-super-Mare (54828)
- 12.00 Witness. Religious documentary series in which faith has inspired individuals to heroic deeds. "Phycaon of the year" Dr Jennell Soetechaus tells of her concern for the health and well-being of the 25,000 homeless people in Washington DC (53338)
- 12.30 The Entertainers. Charlie Drake in conversation with Angela Ripston (98719)
- 1.00 News and weather (7296238, 1.05 LWT news (63555118))
- 1.15 The A-Z. George Fennell stars as the capital's leading leader of a quartet of irregulars fighting wrongs in (6652064)
- 2.10 Film: The White Lions (1981). Family adventure starring Michael York as a naturalist on safari in the African bush who discovers a new strain of white lion. Directed by Mel Stuart (527606)
- 4.00 Film: Airport (1969) starring Burt Lancaster, Dean Martin and Jacqueline Bisset. A chaotic disaster movie in which an airport manager faces the worst day of his career. Heavy snow makes flying dangerous, the main runway is blocked by a stranded airliner and a disturbed bomber is threatening to blow up a plane. Directed by George Seaton (109165)
- 6.30 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (5233002) 6.55 LWT News (523373)



Disaster movie: Jacqueline Bisset stars in Airport (4.00pm)

- 6.40 Annie Across America. Anne Gregg continues her trek across America with a visit to New Orleans where she provides an escape from poverty for the black population. (Oracle) (476286)
- 7.15 The Richard and Judy Show. Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan host another edition of the live show. Their guests are actress Julie Walters, talking about transvestism, and Roy Barraclough who discusses why he is calling time on the role of Alec in Coronation Street (102296)
- 7.45 Watchdog. Emma Wray and Paul Bown star in Jim Hinchmug's comedy series about a mismatched northern couple. Brenda and Malcolm return from their bird-watching weekend with an unbelievable story (n). (Oracle) (718335)
- 8.20 Second Thoughts. James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham star in Jan Enderington and Gavin Petrie's romantic comedy. Faith's bedside manner leaves a lot to be desired (n). (Oracle) (5) (701248)
- 8.50 News with Sue Carpenter. (5233002) 9.05 LWT weather
- 9.10 Film: Columbo - Murder, Smoke and Shadows (1989). Peter Falk stars as the dishevelled detective. A book about an egotistical film director is the only clue to the identity of a body found on the beach (80119557)
- 10.35 TV Squash. Michelle Collins, John McRirick, Nicholas Parsons and Eric Sykes help the regular comedy team turn their satirical gaze on the world of television (5) (1083)
- 11.25 The Last Gigarette. An update on the programme screened on National No-Smoking Day in March (279793)
- 12.55am Cue the Music with Pink Floyd live in concert from Pompeii (9755229)
- 2.00 The ITV Chart Show (5) (90836)
- 3.05 Film: The Jayne Mansfield Story (1960). Loni Anderson plays the well-endowed star in a poor made-for-television movie about her husband's infidelity and death. Directed by Dick Lowry (18836)
- 5.05 Soap. More mayhem with the Tates and the Campbells (n) (489590)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (31213). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Trans World Sport (n) (64880) 7.00 Take 5 (57915) 7.30 Wilko the Wisp (n) (8734101) 7.35 Sharkey and George (3853606) 8.05 Pro Stars. Animated fun (6345002) 8.30 Kelly. Adventures of a police dog (4898083) 8.55 Spacopats (1727151)
- 9.25 The Sward of Tipu Sultan. Epic Indian drama (4509002)
- 10.00 Talking Liberties with critic Paul Boucher (n) (6042422)
- 10.45 Dennis. Animation (n) (5404002) 11.00 Owl. TV. Wildlife magazine series (n) (Teletext) (2002) 11.30 Flipper. The adventures of a friendly dolphin (3731) 12.00 Little House on the Prairie. The trials and tribulations of a close-knit Kansas plains family, starring Michael Landon (82538) 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Classic underwater adventures (91286)
- 2.00 Films: Happy Ever After (1954). David Niven stars in this black and white comedy. When a dastardly new suitor arrives in an Irish village, the locals soon wreak revenge. Directed by Mario Zamp (898606)
- 3.40 Der Rosenkavalier. Armin Brunner's adaptation of the celebrated opera by Richard Strauss (8112647) 4.55 News (4170118)
- 5.00 Mr Mike is on the Mountain. A documentary exploring the uneasy relationship between a group of British climbers, their Sherpa support staff and the local porters (n). (Teletext) (6460)
- 6.00 Bush Tucker Man. After catching a Baramundi, Les Higgins drives east across the Arnhem Land to Marangudja (170)
- 7.00 The Cosby Show. American comedy series. (Teletext) (5) (422)
- 7.30 Equinox: The Triumph of the Embryo. CHOICE: The science and technology series returns to consider one of the biggest questions facing biologists: how the single fertilised egg cell becomes many millions of cells and produces the complex organs and structures of the human body. After a brief look back to Aristotle, and a nod towards Crick and Watson, discoverers of DNA, the film summarises recent additions to knowledge while admitting that there are many gaps still to be filled. The explanations are inevitably technical and the going is sometimes tough, despite the efforts of a team of television-friendly experts from both sides of the Atlantic, including professors Lewis Wolpert and Colin Blakemore. But, you do not need to understand every detail to be able to marvel at, say, the formation of the human brain. (Teletext) (5) (6557)
- 8.00 Europe Express. Includes a report on the ethnic Austrians returning to Bohemia (7539)



Flouting convention: the Reverend Chad Varah (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Chad Varah - The Good Samaritan. CHOICE: One of Chad Varah's first tasks as a young clergyman was to bury a 14-year-old girl who had committed suicide. She had taken her life because of fear about her periods. Unwittingly, the incident set off the two main themes of Varah's career, a campaign to combat sexual ignorance and a determination to help the suicidal. The first led him to run guidance classes for engaged couples and to be accused of moral permissiveness. The second caused him to found the Samaritans, his enduring achievement. Now 60 and still active, Varah reflects on a long and fulfilling ministry which has brought him along conventional lines. Only ten years ago he got into trouble for commissioning Henry Moore, an agnostic, to design a new altar for a Wren church. But anyone outwardly less like a revolutionary would be hard to imagine (22809)
- 9.30 Go Fishing. John Wilson fly-fishes for steelhead trout in the Copper River in British Columbia (33267)
- 10.00 Film: Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean (1982). Robert Altman's adaptation of the Broadway play about five women who grew up together idolising James Dean and meet for a reunion in 1975. A funny and moving piece, beautifully played by Karen Black, Sandy Dennis and Cher (Teletext) (8903373)
- 12.05am Extreme East. Tonight's programme includes a feature on the Russian Kalla Vaca's campaign to have a street in St Petersburg named after John Lennon (2501381)
- 12.35 Film: La Religieuse (1965). Anna Karina stars as a young 18th-century woman who suffers when she is forced to become a nun. Directed by Jacques Rivette (84932497). Ends at 3.10

SATELLITE

- SKY ONE
 - 6.00am The Astro and Marzopolo satellites
 - 6.00am Hour of Power (28002) 7.00 Fun Factory (8530016) 11.30 The World Tomorrow (1977) 12.00 Lost in Space (29680) 1.00am Chopper Squad (15880) 2.00m Hart to Hart (58080) 3.00m Growing Pains (25787) 4.00m Jewel (40050) 5.00m American Wrestling (7354) 6.00m Evening News (29151) 6.30m The Simpsons (3257) 7.00m 21 Jump Street (54793) 8.00m The Last Cowboy. Teropang mini series (1980) 10.00m Falcon Crest (33064) 11.00m Entertainment Tonight (80267) 12.00m Skyrest
- SKY NEWS
 - 6.00am The Astro and Marzopolo satellites
 - 6.00am News on the Hour
 - 6.00am Sunrise (4661460) 9.30m Dayline

- 10.30m Those Were the Days (24880) 11.30m Level Destinations (94826) 12.30m Financial Times Business Weekly (35990) 1.30m Target (35627) 2.30m Bowling Report (35267) 3.30m Our World (35267) 4.30m Those Were the Days (35647) 5.00m Live at Five (93339) 6.00m Bowling Report (67288) 7.00m Financial Times Business Weekly (75441) 8.30m Target (35647) 9.30m Bowling Report (74147) 11.30m ABC News (70159) 12.30m Financial Times Business Weekly (17818) 1.30m ABC News (93545) 2.30m Target (81218) 3.30m Travel Destinations (93571) 4.30m Target (28294) 5.30m Beyond 2000 (67228)
- SKY MOVIES
 - 6.00am The Astro and Marzopolo satellites
 - 6.00am Showtime (577057)
 - 8.00m The Bride in Black (1990). Susan Lucci's husband is murdered (73489)
 - 10.00m Midsommar on Ice (1981). Karl Malden coaches an Olympic hockey team (507625)
 - 12.30pm Twice Upon a Time (1983)

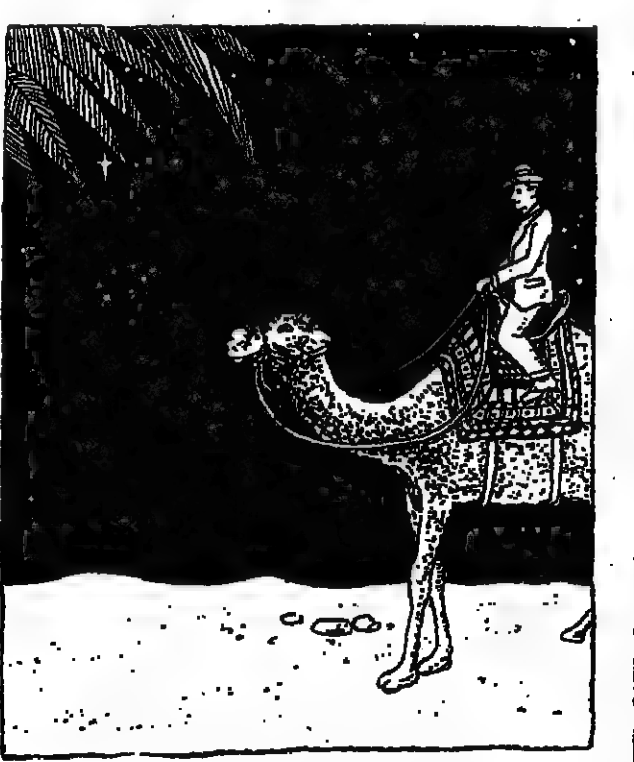
VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA
 - As London excepts 10.20am-10.45m Hindi (6744847) 12.25m-1.00m Young Up Front (3086310) 1.10m The River Thames (5208423) 2.30m Film: The Hindenburg (86002) 3.30m Highway to Heaven (588771) 4.00m-4.30m Dinosaurs (828)
- AS LONDON
 - As London excepts 10.20am-1.00m Gardening Time (1134828) 1.10m Chequerboard (6074842) 1.40m Crown Green Bowling (1254628) 2.30m Film: Ambush at Tomahawk Gap (445557) 4.00m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 4.30m-4.50m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 5.30m-6.30m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 6.30m-7.30m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 7.30m-8.30m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 8.30m-9.30m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 9.30m-10.30m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 10.30m-11.30m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 11.30m-12.30m Crown Green Bowling (86002) 12.30m-1.00m Crown Green Bowling (86002)
- BT WEST
 - As London excepts 10.20am-1.00m West Country Farming (1134828) 1.10m Press Your Luck (8204842) 1.40m U2 - Rattle and Hum (8204842) 2.30m Film: A Way to Water (2551091) 3.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 4.00m-4.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 4.30m-5.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 5.30m-6.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 6.30m-7.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 7.30m-8.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 8.30m-9.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 9.30m-10.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 10.30m-11.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 11.30m-12.30m The Waterfront (2563915) 12.30m-1.00m The Waterfront (2563915)
- HTV WEST
 - As London excepts 10.20am-1.00m HTV West excepts 1.10pm-1.40m A Visit to the Estuaries
- TSW
 - As London excepts 10.20am-1.00m TSW Farming Week (1134828) 1.10m The Life and Times of George Albert (8205152) 2.30m Glen Hovenden's Caravan Time (8212847) 2.40m Film: Tender is the Night (1239793) 3.30m Superman (1978) 4.00m-4.30m Gardens for All

GRANADA

- As London excepts 10.20am-10.45m Hindi (6744847) 12.25m-1.00m Young Up Front (3086310) 1.10m The River Thames (5208423) 2.30m Film: The Hindenburg (86002) 3.30m Highway to Heaven (588771) 4.00m-4.30m Dinosaurs (828)

Chapter Three The BLAZER SALE...



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RADIO 3

- 6.55am Weather
- 7.00 Morning Concert: Elgar (Mandolin of Youth, Suite No 1: Ulster Orchestra under Bryden Thomson); Brahms (Violin Concerto in G minor, Op 77) under Bryden Thomson; Debussy (Sonata in G minor, Op 34) under Bryden Thomson; Edna, piano; Vaughan Williams (Dominus regit me, Hymn Tune Preludes LSO under Bryden Thomson)
- 8.00 News
- 8.05 Morning Concert: (cont.) Elgar (Mandolin of Youth, Suite No 1: Ulster Orchestra under Bryden Thomson); Brahms (Violin Concerto in G minor, Op 77) under Bryden Thomson; Debussy (Sonata in G minor, Op 34) under Bryden Thomson; Edna, piano; Vaughan Williams (Dominus regit me, Hymn Tune Preludes LSO under Bryden Thomson)
- 9.05 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning: From the concert hall, opera house and recital room. The week's listeners' requests includes music by Chopin and Robert Farnon and features Handel (Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Solomon's Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square under John Lush); 9.45 Composer of the Week: William Schuman (Chamber Music for England Triptych; Sea Shanty under Gerard Schur); 9.56 Symphony of the Week: National Symphony No 29 in A, K 201: The English Concert under Trevor Pinnock; 10.17 Artist of the Week: The pianist Solomon Pops (Les Etudes de Chopin No 2 in F minor, S144)
- 10.55 Test Match Special: England v Pakistan. Fourth day of the fifth Test at the Oval, 10.55pm News. 1.10 Talking Point, with Jonathan Agnew. 1.40 Commentary. 3.45 At the Bookstall. 4.00 Commentary, and close of play summary (if play finishes early, Radio 3 will revert to a music schedule)
- 6.10 An Evening Sequence. A selection of music on records, including works by Beethoven, Mozart and Dvorak
- 7.30 Proms 1992. Live from the Albert Hall, London BBC Welsh Chorus Bach Choir, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain under Tadaaki
- 12.00 News 12.05am Close

RADIO 4

- 6.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl 6.03 Weather 6.10 Prelude (6) 6.30 News 6.50 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.15 The Village (6) 6.30 The Saturday Clubbers
- CHOICE: His Honour James Pickles kicks off a series in which the Reverend Dr Edward Norman discusses Church of England, Canterbury, discusses moral attitudes with four public figures. It's a personal enquiry probing by Dr Norman, which draws from the former judge his views on drug taking, pornography and prostitution and the assertion that adults should be allowed to use their bodies as they wish provided no harm comes to anyone else. Only when his guest says he dislikes associating with homosexuals does he say "twisted characters" - does Dr Norman take exception? "a caricature of homosexual behaviour," he says (n)
- 7.00 Your Place or Mine? A Victoria Field. Sarah Parker meets Sylvia Mann Welch (5)
- 7.30 A Good Read. Edward Bligh invites Sophie Grigson and Paul Levy to talk about four paperbacks (5) (n)
- 8.00 The World This Week. 8.30 Reading Aloud: John Barleycorn, by Jack London. Read by Bob Sherman (5)
- 9.00 The Natural History Programme (n)
- 9.30 Special Assignment 9.59 Weather 10.00 News
- 10.15 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Five Orange Pips. The first of four plays, dramatised by Vincent McNamery, featuring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective (5) (n)
- 11.00 The Record Game (5) (n)
- 11.30 Seeds of Faith: Commitment. Sister Una Kroll of the Society of the Sacred Cross reflects on themes arising out of the religious life
- 12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m, 108.9kHz/275m, FM-97.6-99.8, Radio 2: FM-89-90.2, Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4, Radio 4: 148.5kHz/215m, FM-92.4-94.6, Radio 5: 693kHz/33m, 909kHz/30m, LBC 1153kHz/261m, FM 97.3, Capital: 1548kHz/194m, FM 95.8, GLR: 1458kHz/206m, FM 94.9, World Service: MW 648kHz/463m

Kalon adds sweetener but Manders still aloof

By JONATHAN PRYNN

KALON Group has sweetened its takeover offer for Manders (Holdings), a rival paint manufacturer, with improved terms to its all share offer and a partial cash alternative.

The market reacted with enthusiasm to the revised and final offer, with shares in both companies falling.

At yesterday's closing prices, the revised paper offer of 17 new Kalon shares for every six Manders shares held, values Manders shares at 253.4p and the group at £93 million. This compares with an original value of the opening offer of £109 million. There is also a

partial cash alternative of 300p plus 14 new Kalon shares for every six Manders shares.

The outcome of the bid is effectively in the hands of three institutions that between them hold about 35 per cent of the stock. It is unlikely that either side can win without the support of the biggest single shareholder, British Steel, which holds 22 per cent of Manders and has not yet declared its intentions.

Manders quickly rejected the new offer, which closes a fortnight from yesterday. Roy Amos, the chairman of Manders, said: "This final offer which, on the all share basis, represents a multiple of less than 12.8 times pro-forma earnings for the last 12 months is still grossly inadequate and fails to recognise Manders' future prospects." Manders also criticised Kalon for failing to produce a profit forecast and for not offering a full cash alternative.

Kalon pointed out that the stock market as a whole had fallen heavily since the opening bid on June 11, and that if Manders' shares had fallen in line with its sector since that date the price would now be 178p, compared with yesterday's close of 238p.

Analysts said the revised offer would probably be enough to win the day, given Kalon's superior track record in recent years. "The argument for merger looks reasonably compelling," Andrew Benson, a chemicals analyst at BZW, said. "It would create a very strong company that would have access to considerably more opportunities than either company would have alone."

The merged group would have 23 per cent of the UK decorative paints market and Kalon has claimed that cost savings would contribute more than £5 million to combined pre-tax profits. Kalon is seen as having the stronger industrial strategy because of its position as a major supplier of own-branded paints for the DIY market.

Mike Hennessy, group managing director of Kalon, said: "Kalon's increased ordinary offer fully values Manders and offers Manders' ordinary shareholders a generous share in the enlarged group, and in merger benefits in excess of £5 million per annum. Manders' management now accepts Kalon's view of the right strategy for Manders, but lacks the credibility to be entrusted with its implementation." He claimed that net investment of £40 million in Manders trading businesses between 1988 and 1991 had failed to bear fruit for shareholders.

BP accused of illegal moves over payout cut

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

A GROUP of American shareholders is taking legal action against British Petroleum, alleging it gave out false and misleading documents that led investors to believe it would not cut its dividend.

The suit was filed late on Thursday in the Manhattan federal court on behalf of a BP profit-sharing plan and investors who bought BP shares between June 25 and August 6. It names the company, Lord Ashburton, its chairman, and David Simon, chief executive.

BP slashed the stock market on Thursday by halving its quarterly dividend, axing 11,500 jobs and spending £1 billion on restructuring. The American shareholders claim BP issued a statement on the resignation of Robert Horton, its former chairman, saying that management change would not result in any "significant changes". The suit alleges BP also said the dividend would remain the same.

The suit says the company either knew or should have known on June 25 that it was going to cut the dividend.

BP in London last night confirmed that shareholders in the United States had filed a legal suit against the company, but was not willing to elaborate any further.

The company said: "Our position is we really have nothing to say. We have to examine and study the suit before we can say anything, and anything we have to say about it will be said in court. We have no comment at this time."



European foothold: Henlys' Robert Wood, left, and Michael Doherty will gain comfort from the deal with Volvo

Henlys in £75m bus agreement with Volvo

By JON ASHWORTH

HENLYS Group, the motor trader and coach manufacturer, is fighting a hostile £26.5 million bid from T Cowie, the rival car dealership group, has linked up with Volvo, Europe's second-largest bus maker, in a trading agreement worth £75 million in sales.

Volvo has agreed to distribute coaches made by Plaxton, a subsidiary of Henlys, in mainland Europe and other world markets for at least five years. The minimum sales target of 200 coaches a year would net up to £75 million over the period. In a separate technical link-up, Volvo will send two senior production managers to work at Plaxton's factory in Scarborough.

The agreements give Henlys its first foothold outside the UK and cement a natural alliance between the two coach groups. Volvo makes nearly two-thirds of UK coach chassis and Plaxton has about 50 per cent of the UK coach body market.

Robert Wood, chief executive of Henlys, said the company had been seeking an opportunity to expand into new markets. "Plaxton has not sold outside the UK before and we needed export business. Volvo will do our marketing for us, and the deal underpins their place in the UK." Mr Wood was previously general manager of Volvo Truck and Bus (GB).

Mr Wood and Michael Doherty, chairman, will draw comfort from the latest deal, the second to be signed by Henlys in less than a fortnight. Last week, the company announced it had secured orders for 370 coaches and buses worth £17 million, giving a "virtually full" order book for 1992. The 700-strong workforce at Scarborough have accepted a two-year pay freeze and given up rights to private health insurance as part of an ongoing cost-cutting programme.

Steps to streamline Henlys, including the closure of four out of five factories, helped drive the company £6.8 million into the red last year.

Cowie has criticised Paxton's performance but denies any plans to sell or close the business should it win control.

Henlys has until Tuesday to publish new information in its defence, including a profit forecast. Cowie has until August 18 to revise the terms of its offer. The bid goes unconditional on September 1.

Caution the key as new faces take over bank boardrooms

Neil Bennett reports on the management shake-up in the banking industry

THE recession is ravaging the banks' boardrooms as badly as their balance sheets. In the past two weeks, a host of new faces has presented the lenders' interim figures, which contained a punishing £2.66 billion in bad debt provisions. Many of the directors who masterminded the rapid expansion in the late 1980s are being replaced by a younger, and it is hoped more cautious, generation.

The results season was the swansong for two of the industry's most illustrious chairmen but a particularly bitter pill for Sir John Quinlan, head of Barclays, who leaves at the end of the year.

Sir John had the task of announcing a record £1.07 billion bad debt provision and after-tax losses of £59 million. The results sent Barclays to the bottom of the banks' profit league, below even Midland.

In the late eighties, Sir John led Barclays' fight to recapture its position as Britain's largest bank, after it was briefly overtaken by National Westminster. He succeeded, assisted by a £923 million rights issue. Unfortunately, many of the loans from that period are going sour, and Sir John admits the bank should have turned down up to a third of its lending.

Barclays, however, has not looked far for a successor. Andrew Buxton, managing director since 1988, is moving

up a rung, but promising to monitor the bank's risk more effectively. The only other new face in a familiar line-up is Peter Wood, the youthful finance director, who replaced Brian Pearce last year when he hopped across to Midland.

Sir Jeremy Morse is at least bowing out on a high note, with Lloyds confirmed as Britain's most profitable bank. With 15 years in the hot seat, he has survived massive Third World debt provisions and two failed bank acquisitions.

Sir Jeremy is making way for Sir Robin Ibb, two years his senior, although many believe that Sir David Walker, former head of the Securities and Investments Board and a deputy chairman, will soon be offered the top job. Brian Pittman, chief executive, is staying until 1995, three years beyond the bank's normal retirement age.

The industry shake-up is most apparent at National

Westminster and Midland. At NatWest, two of the top three are new. Derek Wanless, 44, is one of the youngest men ever to run a big British bank and a role model for the young managers muscling their way to the top in the industry. His sharp style contrasts with Tom Frost, his predecessor, who stepped down in March.

By his side is Richard Goold, the new American finance director. They make Lord Alexander of Wealden, the chairman, seem like an old-timer, even though he has only been with the bank for three-and-a-half years.

At Midland, the biggest change is one of ownership, which is ushering Hongkong and Shanghai bankers into head office. Sir Peter Walters, chairman, and Brian Pearce, chief executive, arrived only last spring but have already witnessed more changes than a chameleon in a kaleidoscope. The most recent departures have been Gene Lockhart, head of retail banking, and George Loudon, Midland Monagu chief. Meanwhile, Keith Whitson, a rising star in the Hongkong hierarchy, becomes deputy chief executive.

With new names on doors and new faces in annual reports, banks feel they are poised to leave the bad old days behind for good. Shareholders will have to wait to see if these new teams can deliver.



Quinton: bitter results pill



Frost: ex-NatWest chief



Morse: Lloyds in top slot

Trimoco chief rejects Hartwell bid

By MARTIN WALLER

ROGER Smith, chairman of Trimoco, the motor dealer under £25.9 million offer from Hartwell, has urged investors not to accept the cash bid.

Hartwell, the motor trader bought in 1990 by the Saudi Arabian Jumeirah Group, was forced to launch the bid this week, at the prevailing market price of 17.5p for each Trimoco share, when it converted loan stock to push its

holding to 39.4 per cent. The City code on takeovers requires holders of 30 per cent or more of any quoted company to make a formal bid. An offer document for the ordinary shares and the rest of the convertible loan stock is expected next week.

Trimoco shares rose 2p to 19p yesterday as the market anticipated a takeover struggle. Mr Smith said the terms of the "unsolicited and unwelcome" offer significantly undervalued Trimoco and will not be recommended to shareholders.

Further advice will be issued once the formal offer document has been seen by Trimoco and its adviser, NM Rothschild.

Cold War secrets now come in cones

By MICHAEL TATE CITY EDITOR

LITTLE more than a year ago Zelenograd was a secret military base on the Soviet Union's Baltic coastline. Today it has a Baskin-Robbins ice-cream parlour. Presumably holiday brochures describing the newest seaside resort on Mother Russia's northern seaboard will follow.

The Zelenograd store lifts the Baskin-Robbins Russian chain into double figures. In two years' time there will be more than 100, and by then they will be selling Russian-manufactured ice-cream.

Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied Lyons, owner of the Baskin-Robbins business, recently turned the first sod on the Moscow site of a proposed £30 million ice-cream factory, in which Allied

will have a half-share and Rosnyastolorg, a Russian concern, the other half. In the spring of 1994 it will begin producing eight million gallons of ice-cream a year.

Russian demand for ice-cream may be thought by the unknowing to be only marginally greater than the Arabs' desire for sunray lamps, but in fact the populace loves the stuff. "A Russian's constitution is based on vodka and ice-cream," they tell me, "said Mr Hales.

Can the locals afford ice-cream, when they don't have enough bread or meat? At 70 roubles a scoop even the Sultan of Brunei would think twice if he had to pay at the official rate of exchange, which would imply between \$40 and \$50. At black market rates, however, customers effectively pay 50p a scoop. Mr Hales,

who opened the Baskin-Robbins flagship store on St Petersburg's main street, Nevsky Prospect, while he was there, and another in Novgorod, says that for the time being the Russian operation will continue importing ice-cream from America.

"Russian ice-cream is very good, but they don't have the range of flavours that we offer. It can be a little watery, but this is a weakness in the milk production process."

This comes down, it seems, to basic disciplines such as the timing of a bull's mating with the cows, so Allied has signed an agreement with milk producers in the Ruzza region to improve their technology in return for supplies.

"We want to put our flagposts in all over eastern Europe," says Mr Hales.

Davies & Newman shares hit low

SHARES in Davies & Newman, owner of the Dan Air airline, hit another new low since the group was refinanced almost two years ago when they fell 2p to 12p, prompting David James, chairman, to say it was too early to consider a further call on shareholders' cash.

Mr James said he was conducting a routine review of finances to ensure the company would survive through the next two springs, the traditional low points of airlines' finances, and he had various initiatives to consider during the next few months to shore up the cash position. He could not rule out an eventual call on shareholders' money, but said the company was performing to budget within cash limits, and difficult conditions expected for the travel industry in the second half of the year were fully allowed for.

Aegis moves to Paris

AEGIS, the holding company of Carat, a pan-European media buying group, is raising £19.75 million in convertible loan stock as part of a reorganisation that includes moving senior managers from London to Paris. Peter Scott, chairman and chief executive, will not go and leaves Aegis on September 15. Frank Law takes over as chairman and Charles Hochman as chief executive. Aegis is cutting its interim dividend from 2.75p to 1.375p after earning pre-tax profits of £13.5 million for the six months to June 30, down from £11.2 million last time. *Tempos, page 17*

SEET cuts loss

SEET, the Edinburgh textiles group, almost halved its pre-tax loss, from £1.25 million to £630,000, in the year ended April 30, but is again passing the dividend. Seer received £350,000 from the original vendors of Homemaker, a chain of bedlinen and bathlinen shops based in Detroit, as well as £150,000 from Homemaker in settlement of an earlier dispute; a further \$900,000 over the next four years is possible. Its action against the investigating accountants continues. All operating companies are trading at a more profitable level compared with this time last year.

Aberfoyle shares halted

SHARES in Aberfoyle Holdings, the Zimbabwean trading group that was the focus of a boardroom battle last year, were suspended at 2.4p pending a financial reconstruction. The directors are seeking the consent of shareholders and creditors to have the company placed in administration, after an approach by investors who are proposing a reconstruction of the share capital and debt. Aberfoyle has insufficient funds to enable it to continue to trade. The new investors have advanced sufficient funds to cover administration costs.

Wholesale Fittings dips

PRESSURE on trading margins and "an abnormally high level of bad debts" have depressed profits at Wholesale Fittings, the electrical products distributor, during the year to end-April. Taxable profits were down 41 per cent, from £4.3 million to £2.5 million. Sales dropped marginally from £63.3 million to £62.2 million. The final payout has been reduced from 13.39p to 8.47p, making a total of 11.7p (16.62p) for the year. Earnings per share fell from 19.7p to 11.7p. Net cash stood at £1.3 million, up £2.4 million.

Fairway stationary

PRE-TAX profits at Fairway Group, the business and computer stationery supplier, market time at £656,000 (£655,000) in the six months to end-June. Turnover doubled to £13.9 million (£6.8 million), reflecting the inclusion of GLS Fairway, a supplier to schools and councils, and Tonbridge Trade Binders. Earnings per share were 1.49p (2.68p). The interim dividend is unchanged at 1p. The results are not strictly comparable since earnings at GLS Fairway are weighted towards the second half of the year.

Delta Gold purchase

DELTA Gold, the Australian mining company, is buying additional platinum interests in Zimbabwe from Plateau Mining, the mining company which on Thursday requested the temporary suspension of its shares pending clarification of its financial position. Delta already has interests in the Harley platinum metals project in Zimbabwe, where BHP is conducting trial mining. Delta will pay £300,000 for the additional interests.

Alliance losses jump

ALLIANCE Resources, the American oil exploration and development company that came to the London stock market last year, saw pre-tax losses deepen from \$219,357 to \$699,215 in the year to end-April. Turnover declined to \$972,475 (\$1.7 million). There is no dividend (nil). A new management team that took office in May is setting out to "substantially" reduce debt levels and cut general and administrative expenses by more than 60 per cent.

Young cuts coal mine deal by \$3m

By COLIN CAMPBELL

YOUNG Group, the coal mining concern, says weaker world coal prices have meant that its intended \$6.6 million deal to sell its coal mine in Venezuela to Peabody Holding (a member of the Hanson group) has been amended to \$3 million.

Peabody originally had an option over the mine that it could exercise until May 1993. The option agreement has been brought forward to October 1, 1992, but at the reduced price.

Young has therefore made a provision for a £2.82 million extraordinary loss in its interim report for the six months ended June 30.

The group also reports exceptional trading losses which result in a group pre-tax loss of £3.88 million for the half year, compared with a previous interim pre-tax profit of £756,000.

The total loss for the interim period is £5.71 million (£282,000 net profit), making a net loss of 40.83p a share.

The interim dividend is passed (2.6p). Young warns final and preference share dividend payouts are unlikely. Robert Young, chairman, said the results were disastrous.

Nationwide savings rates cut

By SARA MCCONNELL

NATIONWIDE, the second-largest building society, has cut its savings rates by an average of 0.4 per cent, taking advantage of National Savings' rate cuts earlier this week. It is the first society to cut its rates across the board since the announcement by National Savings on Wednesday.

Societies hope that lower National Savings rates will slow the outflow of savings from their own coffers and reduce the likelihood of a mortgage rate rise. The cut will widen margins between savings and mortgage rates, giving more leeway to keep mortgage rates down.

John Hutchinson, the society's corporate strategy director, said the problem had been that National Savings rates had been seen as a base. "We are now talking about taking the pressure off savings rates. There is a real need for someone to indicate that mortgages will not go down. Mortgage rates are not under threat if we start pushing savings rate boundaries down." However, other societies had to follow the Nationwide's lead if mortgage rates were not to rise again, said Mr Hutchinson.

MAJOR CHANGES			
FALLS:			
De La Rue	684p (-15p)	Dunhill	364p (-15p)
ADT	410p (-18p)	Elys (Wimbion)	680p (-10p)
Watson & Phil	229p (-11p)	Body Shop	278p (-12p)
Low (Wm)	188p (-44p)	Barclays	324p (-10p)
Northern Foods	520p (-21p)	SG Warburg	440p (-10p)
MAM	303p (-10p)	Bass	517p (-14p)
Henderson Admin	578p (-20p)	Amec	74p (-10p)
Burnfield	148p (-18p)	MJ Gleeson	583p (-57p)
WH Smith 'A'	388p (-14p)	RMC Group	454p (-17p)
Liberty	570p (-18p)	Tilbury Douglas	485p (-10p)
Kingfisher	427p (-13p)		

Closing Prices Page 28

Closing Prices Page 28

RECENT ISSUES			
Anglian Group Sp (210)	217	Kenwood App 10p (285)	284
Birky (100)	96	Kjwort Endemint Ply	100
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	101	MFI Furniture (115)	114
Dartmoor Inv Trst Warrants	7	Quality Care Hms (136)	150
Dwyer A	19	Taunton Cider 10p	160
Euro Smaller Co Us (500)	475	Telegraph (325)	284
Finstory Smllr Co 0% Prt	145	RIGHTS ISSUES	
HSBC 75p	330	Birky n/p (100)	4
Henderson Eurotrust Ord	62	Caverdale 1p n/p (6)	4
-do Units	92	Hobson Sp n/p (5)	4
-do Zero Prt	29p	Jeyes Group Sp n/p (385)	63

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Personal Finance editor Diana Wright picks out the best places for your money. *Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow*

0800 282 101

BUSINESS PROFILE: Lawrence Banks

A healthy appetite for the cream on the scone

William Kay finds the Wellcome float mastermind took the wrong tube and nearly didn't take up merchant banking

Lawrence Banks is taking a holiday from the limelight. For the past three months he has masterminded Robert Fleming & Co's role as global co-ordinator of the £2.16 billion sale of Wellcome Trust's shares in Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group.

Not only was it the biggest placing of its kind this year, but the slide in world stock markets ensured it was easily the most difficult. Banks was at the centre of a web of 30 banks and advisers that were grappling with a problem that kept threatening to slipper off of reach until almost the last day.

"We've been a bit frenetic," he says in that understated way English battlefields generals have had since Agincourt, as he sits back in one of the classically-furnished dining rooms Fleming has built itself round the now-obligatory atrium, all glass and foliage. Although only 54, he has an engagingly pre-war air about him. He is well built, with a resonant voice and a fondness for big cigars, good food and fine wine. "Wellcome was on the scene of our on-going business," he adds expansively. "Corporate finance attracts people who enjoy being the cream on the scone. They work best at 110 per cent of capacity. When they aren't stretched everyone starts bickering and it degenerates into a nasty series of nursery squabbles over why there isn't any business. Then usually people do the wrong things, in spades."

In that laid-back way of his, born of a well-off family and formative years at Rugby and Oxford, Banks has strong views about people who do the wrong things. Bluntly, he believes the City is dividing into those he feels he can do business with, and those he cannot.

Early on in his career at Fleming, he acted for Robert Maxwell in the bouncing Czech's ill-fated attempt to merge with the American Leasco. And, less than a year after he became head of the bank's corporate finance department, he found himself advising Distillers in the drinks company's now-notorious three-way struggle with Argyll Group

and Guinness, which was advised by Morgan Grenfell. "I had little, I'm happy to say, to do with Ernest Saunders," he remarks, "but rather a lot to do with Morgans. I must say, I was very shaken by the conduct on the other side of that particular fence. There were a number of suggestions made to us which, if not illegal, were clearly immoral."

So pervasive was the Morgan deal-making culture then that he believes it came close to destabilising the City. "I think the whole of the City pretty nearly went off the rails at that moment," he says. "Morgans were being so successful and were perceived as being so powerful and so good, that everyone would have started stretching the rules as far as possible in order to get the deals done. If they'd gone on for another year, I think that the evil-doing would have spread disastrously." As for Maxwell, Banks was considerably younger when their paths crossed — which goes to show how successful Fleming was at keeping out of Maxwell's clutches in the last 20 years or so of the great crook's life. In 1968 Fleming had acted for Maxwell in his abortive bid for the *News of the World*, and that year Banks had been sent to open a New York office, Fleming's first overseas. So he sat in on Maxwell's talks with Saul Steinberg of Leasco next year, and saw the chickeny first hand.

"I ought to have walked out," says Banks. "But I didn't, which cost us a certain amount of money and a lot of time and trouble, but we never did business for him again. So in the end it was probably a pretty cheap insurance policy." Banks also helped to finance Eurotunnel so, with Wellcome and Distillers, has been involved in some of the City's biggest deals in the past decade.

One of his greatest rivals, Peter Wilmot-Stewart of Warburg Securities, says: "He is an extremely good team leader. On the Wellcome deal he allowed the experts in their own areas to do their own thing. He is very positive in a tight corner: they were the most ghastly conditions

you can imagine to float a deal of that size, and in the end he took the vital decision to set the £8 minimum share price. It was brave, and gave the initiative to the sellers."

Banks's wife, Liz, and Christopher Bland, LWT chairman and one of his oldest friends, attest to his low boiling point and fiery temper. "He's a very clear thinker," says Liz. "He has an eclectic mind, never forgets anything, and always gets to the point with lightning speed. He can blow off steam and leave everyone shattered, then carry on as if nothing had happened."

"He is very bright, deceptively so," adds Bland, who met Banks at Oxford, "but you rapidly realise that this is a very clever chap." Banks and Bland have lived one another into good works. Banks persuaded Bland to chair Life Sciences International, a Fleming-

sponsored company making hospital laboratory equipment. As chairman of Hammersmith Special Health Authority, Bland in return inveigled Banks into being chairman of the Council of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith, which is negotiating with the Wellcome trustees for a £4 million investment in a new building. "So I was a beneficiary, as well as an adviser to, the Wellcome share sale," Banks chuckles.

He has had enormous pleasure out of having the chance to meet a lot of senior people in the medical industry. "You really do see the end-result of your endeavours as a merchant banker," Banks believes successful merchant bankers should be extrovert, gregarious, intellectually curious, with a touch



Battle over: Lawrence Banks winds down with some archery practice at his Herefordshire home

of the amateur psychologist. Above all, self-starters with a good feel for arithmetic. "Merchant banking tactics are quite challenging intellectually," he points out. "It is interesting to figure out how you can structure something to the best advantage. The poker game is intriguing and fun, because it stretches your imagination and you can ask interesting and novel questions and look at things in a whole series of different ways."

It would be peculiar if he were to look all that mental equipment away in his desk every evening before he went home. So it is hardly surprising the Banks have lively debates from time to time — mainly, it seems, over the garden. It is no ordinary garden, Hergest Croft, Kingston, Herefordshire, has been in the Banks family for four gener-

ations. It covers 50 acres, and is so renowned for its trees, rhododendrons and azaleas that it needs a staff of six and charges 15,000 people a year £2 a time to visit.

As Liz is a landscape architect, she is not short on well-founded opinions about the garden. "He is a very fine planter," she concedes, "but I deal more with the gardeners and because I design professionally I tend to take more care of that side of things."

The garden has been a constant feature of Banks's life. He was brought up in Cheshire, about 100 miles from Hergest Croft. But his earliest memories are of wartime, seeing Liverpool docks ablaze and a land mine exploding in the field across from his home.

After five years of misery at a cold and draughty prep school on the Sussex coast, and a more pleasant spell at Rugby, Banks spent his national service in the Royal Navy. "I loved it," he says. "I'm short-sighted in one eye, but if I hadn't had a place at Oxford I think I would have stayed in. I spent the time mostly in the North Sea and Bay of Biscay." He went up to Christ Church, arguably Oxford's most stylish and patrician college. He was taught economics by Sir Roy Harrod, history and politics by Lord Blake. While Peter Jay was soaring towards his efforts, Banks organised the college ball and collected, as he puts it, "an effortless second". But he made a special study of the ethics of Immanuel Kant, which live with him yet.

"The bit that still influences me enormously is the one that says you have a duty to treat all men as ends, and not as means," Banks says. "That is something I've always tried to live up to — no doubt, very unsuccessfully at times. It's one of the things I remember when I need to test what I'm doing."

When he was casting around for a career, his father urged him not to go into banking. Until the early years of this century the family had been true to their name, but his father had broken the mould by joining ICI, becoming personnel director.

"He didn't want his son going back into banking," Banks says, "so, with the usual disregard for parental advice, I thought that's what I'd better go into."

A friend of his at Oxford was the godson of John Thompson, then chairman of Barclays. Thompson

pointed him towards Fleming where David Roberts, one of the directors, was also on the ICI board.

Even those introductions may not have got him the job had he turned up for his interview half an hour late — as he thought he had, after taking an underground train going in the wrong direction.

"I woke up at Putney, and thought Christ, I've blown this one. I got on the right train, got out at Monument, raced up Gracechurch Street and into Bishopsgate, rushed into Fleming's and got on to the directors' floor at five to ten. I told the rather pretty girl on the reception desk that I was terribly sorry, but I was half an hour late. She said: 'But I have you down for ten o'clock. I've been here ever since.'"

By the time he was 25 Banks was managing £100 million. In the form of Save & Prosper's financial unit trusts. That took him to New York, because at that time, in 1964, unit trusts were for the first time permitted to invest overseas. After five years setting up and running the New York office, he returned to be investment director of Save & Prosper for a period covering the stock market and property crash of 1974. "I saw all that as a fairly major institutional investor," he says. "I also had a really fascinating experience: I was helping to run quite a big business, which is something that jolly few of us at that time had had the opportunity to do, because there weren't any big businesses in the City at that time."

He has since wondered whether he ought to have left Fleming's to run his own firm, but always turned his back on the idea.

"There is a feeling in the City that we get a lot more fun out of what we do than what our clients do," Banks says. "Industry is of huge importance to the country, but it does not give me my kicks. If I was good with my hands, which I'm not, I would get endless pleasure from making a craft product. But I don't take any pleasure in mass production."

For the moment he is taking pleasure in a job well done at Wellcome, in which the ethics of Kant sometimes came second to one of W.C. Fields's one-liners — that a Smith & Wesson beats four aces. "We've had a few Smith and Wessons around," he says, "but it rather appears that the four aces have won, which is nice."

'The City is dividing into those I feel I can do business with, and those I feel I cannot'

'You have a duty to treat all men as ends, not means, that is something I have always tried to live up to'

Matthew Bond

Coincidences that could echo through the dinner parties of the nineties

COINCIDENCE can be a funny thing. Sometimes the chance linking of apparently unrelated events can make those little hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. And occasionally, just occasionally, it does the same to those little green shoots that lie on the head of economic recoveries.

You are not convinced, I can tell. But surely you heard the popping of champagne corks this week, or witnessed the dancing in the normally sedate streets of the Square Mile? Perhaps you did, but failed to recognise its significance. Well, let me explain.

The cause of all this jubilation was a surprise jump in something called the "coincident index", a sure sign of more prosperous days just around the corner. Not that celebrations should be overdone — the rise in the coincident index in May and June, after 21 months of decline, is only provisional. But after more than two years of slump, there is a ring of truth and something characteristically British about a recovery that is purely provisional and arrives only by coincidence.

The reliability of the coincident index is rated highly by economists, based as it is on statistics already produced by the government, the CBI and other bodies. What's that — you can't recall a single economic statistic in recent months that showed recovery was on its way? Funny, now you mention it...

By coincidence, neither can Sir John Quinlan, the chairman of Barclays Bank, who incurred considerable government ire (in so far as it is possible to incur such ire during the summer recess) by suggesting that he would not be the slightest bit surprised if the recession lasted another two years. Sir John's realism/pessimism (delete as elected) was doubly brave given that Barclays had just waded up £1 billion of bad debt provisions in the first six months of the year. Another two years of that and there will be precious little Barclays left to manage. By coincidence,



Sir John steps down at the end of this year.

But while Sir John was definitely in the Treasury's bad books for incorrect thinking on economic prospects, his thoughts on how to revive the housing market were more warmly received — largely because he didn't have any. In a week that saw suggestions on how to cure the house market's ills flowing as bountifully as increased property whetstones, it was a refreshing change, especially for the Treasury hods left with their backs against the wall rather than against the lilo.

But as the great and the good (on a pre-exceptional basis) stepped up to proffer advice on how best to remove the "sordid" sign from the endangered species list, few paused to consider some interesting statistics from the United States. There, the Federal Reserve has discovered that lower interest rates are having absolutely no beneficial im-

past on the housing market.

By coincidence (what else?) that is pretty much what has happened in Britain, where mortgage rates have dropped by a third without delivering even the tiniest boost to house prices. In fact, as the Halifax and Nationwide building societies pointed out this week, prices are still falling.

But despite all the evidence, the pundits have been queuing up to tell us that the road to economic recovery is an improved housing market, with progress driven by that other stalwart of the endangered species list, the first-time buyer.

This latter point strikes me as curious. For, as I recall, first-time buying involves giving someone else all your hard-earned cash, borrowing as much as you can, possibly afford and then doing nothing and, more importantly, spending nothing for the next two years. If that's an engine of recovery, I'm Sir John

Quinton. In their relentless efforts to bolster battered balance sheets — I mean stimulate the housing market — no fiscal or financial incentive was left unpromoted by the mortgage providers and — lest it slip the Treasury's mind again — savings receiving industry.

If you thought dinner party conversation of the middle eighties left a little to be desired (really, £30,000 in six weeks, how interesting...), wait for the middle nineties. "Of course, we deliberately stayed out of the market until mortgage interest relief and the stamp duty threshold were doubled. And then, just when poor old Camilla lost her job, they brought in that mortgage benefit scheme. Stroke of luck, really. But what really saved us, of course, was John Major's resignation decision to devalue the pound. Inflation took off and took house prices with it. Just confirmed what I've always said — you can't go wrong with property. Have I told you about our little place in France?"

Either you give up having dinner parties or make sure that the noisy beneficiaries of the largesse sought by the likes of National Westminster Bank and the Halifax and Woolwich building societies sit next to people who live in rented property. They'll get on like a house on fire — one guess whose.

The only thing that could make such encounters worse is if Abbey National succeeds in getting losses on house sales allowable against income tax. "What with the rollover losses and Miras, not to mention our Tassas and Peps, we've basically given up income tax as a family..."

But, as the Rowntree Foundation pointed out, if property losses become tax-allowable, gains, logically, should be taxable. For a government with a £28 billion borrowing requirement to fund, that really is an idea. How about a one-off tax on gains made between, say, 1973 and 1985? It would make dinner parties a lot more fun.

TEMPUS

Bright programme spins Unilever profits higher despite recession

UNILEVER continues to be one of the better counter-cyclical plays, even among food and consumer product manufacturers, which are regarded as more immune than most from recession. Most people eat and wash whatever the economic trends, and meanwhile, Unilever uses the healthy cash flow to pay off debts at an impressive rate.

Pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £888 million in the first half to end-June, with a 14 per cent increase to £511 million in the second quarter, which sent the shares up 12p to 953p even in yesterday's soggy market.

A second-quarter operating profit increase of 6 per cent compared with a 2 per cent fall in the first quarter, when the pre-tax improvement came entirely from the interest line.

Unilever reduced debts by £600 million over the year to end-June to £1.5 billion at average exchange rates, £100 million thereof in the last three months when cash is traditionally tight. This suggests a gearing level of just 20 per cent at the year-end and single figures by the end of 1993, if the group does not take advantage of falling asset prices to make further purchases. If it does, analysts say the most likely area is the American food sector, where it remains under-represented, despite commanding positions in the margarine, tea and sauces markets.

The group said all its main product areas contributed to a 4 per cent rise in sales in the first half, with ice cream and personal products standing out. Europe, depressed by heavier marketing spend in the first three months, managed an encouraging 5 per cent operating profit rise in the second quarter. Although the half year showed a 4 per cent fall, the figures allayed market concern of a continuing downturn and suggested the embattled European consumer can eventually be tempted back into the shops.



Confident: Michael Perry, the new Unilever chairman, expects further progress

A confident statement by Michael Perry, the new chairman, suggested that despite no real evidence of an upturn in most markets, further progress should be possible in the second half. Further debt reductions and margin enhancement should push pre-tax profits ahead to just below £2 billion, putting the shares on a forward multiple of a little more than 14 and on to brokers' lists of firm holds.

Aegis Group

ALICE might well have been thinking of Aegis Group when she said "curiouser and curiouser". Turnover at the media buyer group rose 42 per cent in the six months ended June 30 to £1.39 billion, but operating profits fell 9 per cent to £30.3 million. After exceptional/reorganisation costs of £14 million, the pre-tax profit for the half year fell from

£31.2 million to £13.5 million. Because of an accounting technicality, the tax charge rockets from 37.75 to 65.2 per cent. The drag of a £13.5 million extraordinary loss leaves the net line showing a loss of 2.1p a share, against a previous interim profit of 13.97p a share. The interim dividend is cut from 2.75p to 1.375p a share.

Alice might be further confused by the group's planned move of operating managers from London to Paris. As a result, Aegis no longer falls within the jurisdiction of the Takeover Code. The company says it intends to ensure British minority shareholders' rights.

Alice would also note that there is a hybrid rights issue of 0.875 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock to raise £19.75 million. With the Aegis share price down from 217p last October to 41p now — down 5p on the announcements — an ordinary

rights issue could have proved difficult. There is also a rescheduling of deferred payments relating to earlier acquisitions.

There is a shuffle of top management, but with European display advertising markets remaining weak, it will be a slow crawl before previous profit levels of 1990, when £67.8 million pre-tax was recorded, are challenged.

The profile of share ownership is essentially French and American, and £3.2 million in compensation payments are being made to two executives who do not wish to move to Paris.

Aegis may well see year-end pre-tax profits of £37 million, and £50 million in 1993, and the 9.3 times rating on 1992 prospective earnings and a mere 3.3 times rating based on 1993 profit hopes may well seem tempting. But the speculative tinge remains.

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Advertisers called to account



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

The weasel words of the financial advertising industry came under Consumers' Association scrutiny this week and failed miserably. National Savings, building societies, life companies and investment groups are all criticised for their careless use of superlatives when selling their products.

National Savings, which has been doing particularly well at the expense of building societies this year, is criticised for its Capital Bonds advertising campaign. The slogan "interest with nothing taken off first for tax," reminiscent of claims for wholesome bread, is untrue. Taxpayers have to pay tax in the year the interest is credited to them, but cannot get at the income for five years. The slogan was withdrawn.

Over at Abbey Life a claim that investors will get "tax-free cash" from their insurance bond is questioned. After all, while the individual will not have to pay any more tax, that is only because the life company has already paid a tax bill on the investment. In most cases, the capital gains tax paid by the company

would be more than the individual would have had to pay with a similar gain on other investments. The company is not alone in making such claims but Lantoro has yet to straighten out the industry on that point. Bonds are still sold inappropriately to people who are unlikely ever to have to pay capital gains tax.

Insurance companies have a reassuring turn of phrase when selling. "Maximum security" and "access to your money at any time" are two that CA objected to in an advertisement from Britannic Assurance. In the small print, investors are advised that they will get a very low return if they cash in during the first few years and can only be certain that their return will not be less than minus 5 per cent at the end of five years if the bond is cashed in.

Two tables in advertisements appeared to name two different building societies as providing the best

performing Tessa in 1991. The reason was that the Britannia was only counting the top ten building societies while the Yorkshire, the twelfth largest, looked at the top 13 societies and all the big banks. Britannia also excluded bonuses which made a difference to the Halifax's performance as it paid 1.5 per cent at the end of the first year. It also failed to mention that unlike any of the other Tessa in the table, no interest could be drawn from the account and the early closure penalties were the second highest. The Portman's fixed-rate mort-

gage also fell foul of CA. It gave a cast-iron guarantee that the rate would not only be fixed but would remain extremely competitive. No-body can give the latter guarantee, not even the Chancellor of the Exchequer. What fixed mortgages offer is certainty that payments will not go up. Later fixed rate or variable mortgage offers can easily undercut them if interest rates fall.

Of course, no one really expects financial organisations to emphasise the poor points and hide the virtues of their products. The Consumers' Association's research is still a valu-

able reminder of how far adrift some institutions are when a sale is in sight. It is because of this that independent, unbiased guidance is so important for investors.

Round-up time

Advertisements for mortgages have been cleaned up over the last couple of years but brokers are still a law unto themselves. This week John Butterfill MP called for tighter regulation of high street mortgage brokers. How they came to escape the regulation of the Financial Services Act mystifies most regulators. But they do. Advice on mortgages currently slips between the Consumer Credit Act, which covers loans up to £15,000, and the Financial Services Act. The latter only applies to salesmen who give advice on investments. Too many people have been ad-

vised by mortgage brokers to cancel one endowment and take out a new one or to borrow against their home to invest in a bond, exposing themselves to the risk of market losses and rising interest rates. Now is the time to bring mortgage brokers under greater control, as regulators struggle to form a one-stop regulatory system for private investors from two whole regulators and bits of a third.

Many brokers are already members of the Fimbra but it is always the least honourable who shy away from scrutiny. The firms offering cheap mortgage rates from which few if any customers actually get the benefit need to be chased out of business by regulators with teeth.

Those who operate properly, giving good advice on loans available and methods of payment, offer a valuable service in an increasingly complicated housing market. It is no longer easy for housebuyers — should there be any out there — to fathom which mortgage is likely to be best for them. These brokers should be leading the campaign to clean up the rest.

Cash chain letters and 'pyramid selling' schemes are returning to tempt the unsophisticated

Get rich quick merchants are back in town

Lindsay Cook goes on the trail of sudden riches only to find the promoters are curiously silent

"THROW this away and you are throwing away £1,000 a week!" proclaims a leaflet from IM Consultants, before adding that its consumer research department has identified the recipient as an "active business opportunity seeker."

It is one of a growing number of schemes promising riches to people willing to send money to the companies offering the schemes and also to persuade their friends to part with their money.

Strict rules on earnings claims for multi-level selling schemes are monitored by the trade department. Brochures should detail precisely the nature of the business, so potential members can assess them before sending money.

IM Consultants leaflet asks for a standing order for £50 a month for a year to be paid into the company's account at National Westminster Bank in Barnsley. "Yes, I do like the idea of having the opportunity to earn up to £60,000 per year on The Key Plan. Please rush me the first instalment as soon as my bank standing order application has been processed."

The Key Plan is described as a part-time business which anyone with common sense can run from the comfort of their home. "It requires very little work and very little capital because the system has been so beautifully refined as a result of many years of research and development."

The poorly-produced sales pitch continues that the work involved is "no more than very straight forward office work like packing lightweight items and mailing them. Probably the most strenuous part intellectually will be keeping a record of your earnings."

Those tempted by the scheme are given a testimonial by CMC Consultants of Ex-

eter. Charles Cust of CMC Consultants says that within 10 days of entering the business he earned £3,196.80. Unlike IM Consultants, this firm is listed by British Telecom. But there is only a recorded message of a man saying he does verify the endorsement of the Key Plan. It also gives a portable telephone number but no calls could be connected over a two-week period.

Anyone feeling sceptical about the scheme by this time is reassured: "As professional business people ourselves we expect and understand the scepticism with which an offer like this is often met. We realise a certain amount of scepticism is a healthy defence in the hard world of business. However, it is very important that scepticism does not completely take over to the point where it is always used as an excuse for not considering a business opportunity carefully. The sad fact is that the average person does this, which is why we wouldn't even consider of-

fering this opportunity to average people, but rather a very limited number of carefully selected people throughout the business opportunity community, of which you are one."

Those in doubt are also told they only have seven days to join and are reminded that the offer is limited to 100 places for the issue. "So we are afraid it will be a case of first come first served and there is a time limit for applications."

A month after being contacted by IM Consultants and



IM Consultants' banker: NatWest, Barnsley, where the account could not be confirmed but staff could forward letters

sending off my standing order, all I have to show for the £50 is a letter saying: "We are pleased to inform you that we have been able to accept your application," a slim guide to setting up a business, and guidance on selling the scheme to others.

IM Consultants does not give a full address — only a Freepost number and post code. Nor does it give the

with a West End solicitor's stamp, had no address for Geoff Sharp, its author, and only one of the four addresses to which money should be sent had a telephone number. It was ex-directory.

Mr Sharp says in the letter he was previously sole owner of Sharps Bedroom Design, a national company. This is now part of Hawley Group, he says, not mentioning Hawley became ADT in February 1988 and disposed of Sharps in 1986. Mr Sharp does not give a current address.

And while he has treated "get rich quick schemes" with contempt in the past, he has changed his mind. "I genuinely believe I will earn as much money from this, within the next few months, than from all the years I owned Sharps Bedroom Design." It adds: "The vast profits that can be made can only happen if people you introduce are successful. That's the beauty of it. I want you to make money! If you do, then so do I." By mailing only 200 people, participants can make more than £7,750 it says, even if only three in a hundred respond. The cost to the individual is £46 and four hours' time. To

earn the money, people send £5 to four addresses and put their own name at the top of the list, deleting the fourth name. He or she is "already on the way to the bank," it says.

The endorsements are fantastic. A Charles Fairchild claims that by sending out

1,000 mailings he received £89,000. He plans to send 15,000 next time. Mary Rockland found her letterbox became so overloaded that she had to "start collecting my post from the postman through the window." She expects to make more money this year than in

any 10 years in her life. The package includes a personal note from Edward Green, the originator of the plan. He says he will not make any money because he has retired after sending out 16,000 letter packets, making £4 million.

Excel Prestige International runs its own money-making scheme. A glossy brochure gives an 0891 telephone number costing 48p a minute in working hours and 36p off peak. It sells the new-tech co-operative movement. "Thanks to the immense power of present day computer technology, a century-old principle is reborn and harnessed to produce enormous dividends which you can share in."

Excel's sequential dividend plan is based on rising membership. "Your membership allows you access to a tunnel. As other members join behind you, you are pushed forward through the tunnel, emerging to collect your share from the dividend fund." The member enters a second and a third tunnel. By passing through each complete dividend cycle £7,840 can be earned. Membership costs £75 and bro-

chures to recruit other members cost £30 for 500 and promotional tapes £1.99 each. Members are told they can climb the excel prestige ladder of success. Three more members have to be recruited to Excel to become an executive accolade member. A further 12 new members bring silver membership and a free MG Metro Turbo. Ten more and gold membership is achieved plus a Ford RS 2000. The ultimate accolade is platinum membership complete with a top of the range Mercedes or BMW. It was not possible to question the Excel Prestige scheme and bonus bonds system. The telephones are solidly engaged and the fax machine does not take messages.

Jane Vass, head of money research at the Consumers' Association, warned that even with valid multi-level marketing schemes, potential members had to be aware that they would have to introduce a lot of people before they made any money. "They often have several levels before a bonus is earned. It can be a theoretical rather than a practical bonus."

'Probably the most strenuous part intellectually will be keeping a record of your earnings'

fering this opportunity to average people, but rather a very limited number of carefully selected people throughout the business opportunity community, of which you are one."

A month after being contacted by IM Consultants and

names of any of the principals of the company, although letters are signed by Nicky B. NatWest, whose Barnsley branch is the only contactable address on the mailing, cannot give any information on its customer, nor even confirm that it has an account with the branch, although a girl in the standing orders department offered to forward a letter to the holder of the account.

Another mailing, for a different company's scheme, came in an envelope franked

let yourself be carried away by their success stories. The later entrants, at the bottom of the pyramid, may not do so well because it is not easy to recruit people. The number of ordinary people who may be willing to buy the goods does not increase as the number of sellers increases. So you end up with too many participants trying to sell in the same area.

Participants have up to 14 days to withdraw and are entitled to a refund of all the money they have paid to join the scheme and the full value of any unsold goods they decide to return, so long as they are undamaged. After that there is still the right to withdraw but the promoter can make deductions from any refund for goods not redelivered or despatched to the promoter.

The department cannot give advice on individual schemes but wants to hear from anyone with information on schemes that appear to breach the regulations.

"A lot of care has to be exercised by companies involved in pyramid or multi-level marketing schemes to make sure they comply with the regulations," said the department. It receives a steady flow of complaints.

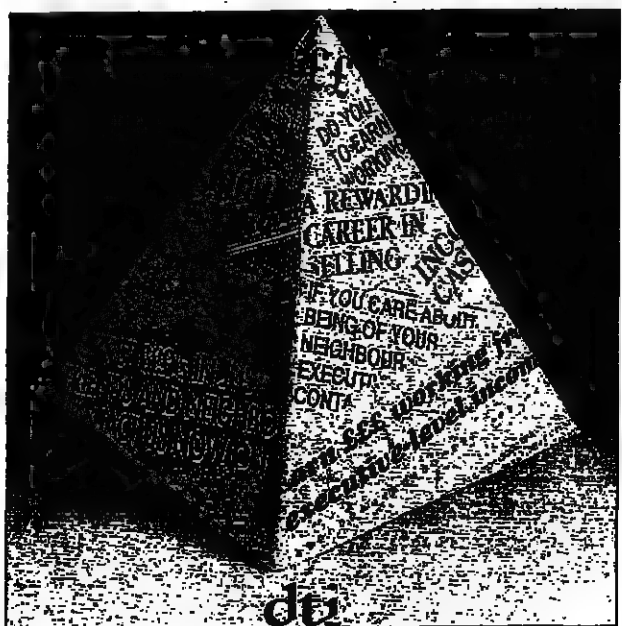
Copies of the brochure can be obtained from: Consumer Affairs Division, Department of Trade, 10-18 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NN.

Still just a pyramid by any other name

PYRAMID selling was not outlawed in the sixties or seventies as is commonly thought, but it has changed its name. As late as 1989, regulations on pyramid selling became law and the trade department now issues guidelines for potential sellers and people wanting to set up multi-level selling companies or network marketing organisations — the new names for pyramid selling. (Lindsay Cook writes.)

Under these schemes, participants buy goods or services from a company and then sell them to the general public. They can also make money by recruiting new participants, from commission on the sales of these other participants and by providing training or other services to other participants.

Multi-Level Selling Schemes: A Guide to the Pyramid Selling Schemes Legislation says that circulars and prospectuses indicating the financial benefits which can be obtained from a scheme must show the date on which the scheme started in Britain as well as the name and address of the promoter. A description of the goods or services covered by the scheme should be included, as should a statutory warning. This should say: "Do not be misled by claims that high earnings are easily achieved," and must suggest independent legal advice be taken



Warning sign: on the cover of the DTI brochure

before signing a contract. If earnings claims are made, they must be accompanied by the statement: "The figures shown do not represent any automatic earnings. Actual earnings will depend on time and effort spent on the business and the total number of participants in the scheme."

The trade department warns potential sellers to beware of any scheme which asks for money for goods or services before they have signed contracts. This is illegal. It also points out that the

PEP M&G DIVIDEND PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH

Year Ended 31st Dec	£6,000 Lump Sum			£50 per month		
	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross	Gross Building Society	Amount Invested	M&G Dividend Net	M&G Dividend Gross
6.5.1964	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£50	£50	£50
1964	5,796	5,796	6,230	350	319	357
1965	6,504	6,672	6,633	950	974	1,001
1966	6,120	6,360	7,094	1,550	1,456	1,693
1967	7,224	7,728	7,610	2,150	2,331	2,439
1968	9,900	10,872	8,187	2,750	3,866	4,087
1969	8,256	9,252	8,872	3,350	3,766	4,022
1970	8,376	9,636	9,634	3,950	4,411	4,784
1971	12,696	15,036	10,437	4,550	7,452	8,236
1972	15,696	18,960	11,286	5,150	9,839	11,017
1973	11,832	14,496	12,395	5,750	7,869	8,878
1974	7,224	9,036	13,810	6,350	5,225	5,956
1975	16,164	20,760	15,373	6,950	12,446	14,446
1976	15,540	20,436	17,078	7,550	12,512	14,770
1977	24,696	33,288	18,939	8,150	20,559	24,739
1978	27,396	37,812	20,817	8,750	23,390	28,689
1979	28,476	40,176	23,434	9,350	24,848	31,022
1980	32,436	45,836	27,023	9,950	28,864	36,727
1981	37,464	55,488	30,688	10,550	33,929	44,107
1982	45,672	69,288	34,667	11,150	41,981	55,699
1983	65,964	102,180	38,362	11,750	61,304	82,815
1984	90,504	142,368	42,722	12,350	84,781	116,061
1985	112,968	180,180	48,189	12,950	106,466	147,530
1986	152,352	245,892	53,615	13,550	144,214	201,966
1987	184,248	300,696	59,392	14,150	174,961	247,537
1988	203,160	335,220	65,131	14,750	193,510	276,549
1989	257,076	428,544	73,382	15,350	245,483	354,160
1990	218,640	368,880	84,046	15,950	209,307	305,380
1991	226,320	387,120	93,554	16,550	217,187	321,009
31.7.1992	231,840	403,200	98,719*	16,900	222,796	334,657

Notes: The values shown have been calculated as if an M&G PEP and its current tax treatment were available throughout the period shown. All net figures include re-invested income. M&G Dividend figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office). The regular savings figures exclude the last payment and all payments apart from the first are made on the last business day of the month. An investment in M&G Dividend of £6,000 on 31st July 1987 would have grown to £5,764 by 31st July 1992 with net income re-invested and £6,143 with gross income re-invested. An investment of £50 per month from 31st July 1987 (£3,000) would have grown to £2,915 by 31st July 1992 with net income re-invested and £3,029 with gross income re-invested. *Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 390390 (Business Hours). Please send me a free copy of the latest M&G Handbook including details of how to invest in M&G's range of unit trusts through a lump sum, savings plan or the M&G PEP. NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

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Not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. Naturally we will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies. If you would prefer not to receive this information please tick the box ☐ The M&G PEP is managed by M&G Financial Services Limited (member of IMRO), issued by M&G Securities Limited (member of IMRO and Lantoro).



UNIT TRUSTS • PEPs • SAVINGS PLANS

BRIEFINGS

Abbey National is writing to all Higher Interest and Seven Day Account customers advising them to transfer to an Investment or Instant Saver account. Customers may do so without giving notice or incurring a penalty. Seven Day and Higher Interest customers will receive only 1 per cent gross interest after this month as Abbey is winding down both accounts.

Holders of Girobank Visa Classic cards will pay a £12 annual fee from October 1. Customers will be charged the fee after the first use of their cards from that date. They have until March 1, 1993, to clear outstanding balances. Those who use them only as cheque guarantee cards will be exempt from the fee and can apply for Visa three-in-one cheque guarantee, debit and cashpoint cards later this year. There is free protection for 100 days against loss, theft or accidental damage.

Rates on Chelsea building society's Classic account will be cut from this Monday by 0.4 per cent gross. Savers with £2,500 to £4,999 will earn 6.83 per cent net, 9.1 per cent gross. Those with high balances of £25,000 or more will earn between 7.58 per cent net and 10.1 per cent gross. The postal account offers instant access and a cheque book and cheque card. The Chelsea has a phone line, 0800 717 515, open from 9 am to 5 pm, seven days a week.

Trading-off growth for safety

Rupert Bruce outlines a range of investments that gain with market rises and avoid the falls

FOR those who want to invest in the stock market but stick to the building society because they are too scared of losing money, a new range of investments is springing up. At first sight these "guaranteed" investments offer the best of both worlds: if the stock market rises so do they, but if it falls they do not.

At least five financial services companies are marketing them under the various guises of insurance bond, building society deposit or personal equity plan (Pep). Sharon Chilcott, a Bristol & West spokeswoman, said: "It's a very good time to invest in a product like this because it will enable people to benefit from the rise in equities when the economy recovers. At the same time they are protected against the risk."

What all these investments have in common is a guarantee that after a set period — usually three or five years — the initial investment will be returned intact if the stock market's benchmark FT-SE 100 index has fallen. If the index rises so will these investments, but to varying degrees. The investment benefiting most from a rise is Bristol &

West's GEB Plus which, ironically, is based on a building society account. Any rise in the FT-SE over the investment's five-year term will be more than matched by a 133 per cent rise in GEB Plus's value.

Bristol & West puts an investor's initial sum into a building society account and gives the interest to an unnamed third party. The third party pledges to make the sum up to 133 per cent of any FT-SE index rise.

The GEB Plus is taking new money until next Friday. Another offer will follow. Henderson, the investment manager, markets a similar product called the Anchored Asset Account which is unique in that it is cloaked in a Pep and therefore partly shielded from tax.

It guarantees that the value of an investment will not fall over five years, and if the stock market rises it should do too. About 1 per cent of an investment, after initial charges, is used to buy a Lloyd's insurance contract which guarantees the capital. The rest of the money is split 50:50 between a high interest deposit account and the Henderson Income & Growth unit



Ready for recovery: Sharon Chilcott of Bristol & West

trust. Unlike any of the other investments it also has a ratchet device which locks in stock market gains. If the value of the unit trust rises by 20 per cent then half of that increase is transferred to safe-

ty. But the Henderson fund's charges are high. It charges an initial fee of 5 per cent and 1.25 per cent annually.

The lacklustre performance of the Henderson unit trust compared with the FT-SE 100

index over the past two years, has to be considered.

Scottish Provident, Bradford & Bingley, and Clerical Medical have pioneered "guaranteed" investments and have attracted £180 million between them since the beginning of 1990.

The Scottish Provident Capital Guarantee Bond and the Bradford & Bingley Market-mester Growth Bond have similar characteristics because both are designed by Scottish Provident.

Its own bond is 90 per cent invested in its Blue Chip Fund and the other 10 per cent is invested in "protector units" including traded options.

Bradford & Bingley invests 74 per cent of its bond in the Blue Chip Fund, while another 25 per cent goes into the Money Market fund. Only 1 per cent is used to buy traded options to hedge against falls in the stock market.

The Scottish Provident bond has an initial charge of 5 per cent and an annual charge of 1 per cent, while the Bradford & Bingley one charges 6 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

Clerical Medical simply invests in two traded option contracts for its Guaranteed 100 Bond: one to hedge against a fall and the other to match any rise.

It charges a high 7 per cent initially and 0.75 per cent annually.

Scottish scores a first with flat initial Pep fee

By SARA MCCONNELL

INVESTORS putting up to £6,000 into Premium personal equity plans (Peps) with Scottish Equitable will pay flat initial fees of £45 per plan year instead of 5 per cent, which could cost £300.

Scottish Equitable is the first company to charge flat rather than percentage fees. With VAT added at 17.5 per cent, total fees will be £52.78. They are being waived on applications received between August 4 and September 4. Flat fees benefit those with more to invest. Fidelity and Gartmore have already cut their front end charges from 5 per cent to 2 per cent.

Like Gartmore and Fidelity, Scottish Equitable will instead penalise those who cash in investments early, hoping that this will encourage people to see Peps as long-term investments.

Investors who withdraw funds within one or two years of opening a plan will incur charges of 4 per cent of the amounts encashed. Charges continue on a sliding scale for up to five years; 3.5 per cent is deducted in the third year, 2.5 per cent in the fourth and 1.5 per cent in the fifth. Those who retain their investments for eight

years will get cash loyalty bonuses equal to 1 per cent of the bid for selling value of units in their plans.

Charging for early encashment will recoup some of the money lost in initial charges but Keith Lockhart, Scottish Equitable's sales director, unit trusts, said that on balance customers would benefit more than the company. When investors paid 5 per cent initial charges, on top of their investments, companies benefited from funds on which customers could otherwise have earned interest.

The 3 per cent commission paid to intermediaries out of the old 5 per cent charge will now be met by Scottish Equitable. Initial charges had been "a constant source of complaint from customers", Mr Lockhart said.

There is still an annual Pep management charge of 0.8 per cent as well as a charge for each unit trust invested in through the Pep. These range from 0.75 per cent a year for the European fund, through 1 per cent for the blue chip, high income, UK and global and Europe 2000 funds, to 1.25 per cent for the ethical fund.

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SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Give one-income couples some mortgage support

From Mr Alan Allsopp

Sir, Your article "Mortgage debts spell misery for thousands" (Weekend Money, August 1) raises several interesting points.

It will be generally conceded that (a) fewer repossession would lead to greater confidence in the housing market and a lessening of mortgage debts; (b) young couples are at greater financial risk during the first ten years of marriage; (c) one-income couples are at greater risk than are two-income couples. It would seem

sensible, therefore, to stop repossession before they happen by giving some sort of support to one-income couples in their early married years.

Well before the last Budget strong representations were made to the Treasury showing precisely how this could be done. It was recommended that during the first ten years of a marriage a non-earning spouse should be allowed to transfer his/her unused personal allowance to the earning partner. This would save such couples about £800 a year,

equal to a 2 per cent interest rate cut on a £40,000 mortgage. The cost would have been about £600 million annually. The proposal was rejected out of hand.

In the light of continued repossession and the enduring depression of the housing market do your readers feel the Treasury acted wisely and responsibly? Yours faithfully, ALAN ALLSOPP, 78 Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.



Tariff should be £5

From Dr John Brandon

Sir, I note from your comment (July 25) Barclays Bank charged £92.50 per hour of managerial time to a customer who exceeded his overdraft.

I have a complaint against Barclays being considered by the Banking Ombudsman.

In the event of my claim proving successful Mr Shurman has in mind a tariff for compensation of £5 per hour. This is because "It is the Ombudsman's view that, when dealing with matters of this type, an individual will usually use his or her leisure time to deal with the complaint."

Yours sincerely, JOHN BRANDON, 32 Dorchester Avenue, Cardiff.

Essence of insurance

From B.S. Rooney

Sir, After yet another attack by you on the life insurance industry, I am at last moved to protest. I spent 40 years in the industry and my father sold life insurance in his turn for some 40 years also. I may claim, therefore, to know something about it. I am particularly annoyed by the fourth paragraph of your article "Building society and bank savers do not stand the risk of losing etc..."

But neither do they stand to gain the full sum assured, if they die the day after paying the first premium in all your articles on this subject, I cannot recall this point being made. Surely this is what life insurance is all about — protection for dependants. My father had several friends whose widowhood was made easier to bear by the policies he had sold their husbands.

If you were to stress that life insurance was never intended to be an investment vehicle, but a protection for the family, you would be doing your readers a greater service than persuading them to look to personal profit. Yours truly, B.S. ROONEY, Avon Lodge, Alton Lane, Four Marks, Hampshire.

Good News For Investors

Fidelity Cuts The Cost Of Bond Investment.

Fidelity leads the way.

With the aim of offering better value to investors, only a few weeks ago we dramatically cut the cost of investing in PEPs.

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The reason is simple. Bonds look particularly attractive right now and should form a part of any well-balanced portfolio. You can take immediate advantage of high interest rates to secure high income now. And, as interest rates fall, you can then benefit from capital growth as the value of your bonds rises.

Charges cut from 5½% to 3½%.

Our new pricing structure makes bonds an even more attractive proposition. Just as importantly, we offer a full range of funds, which have an excellent performance record and cover all the main global bond markets. Your investment is backed by the resources of Fidelity, one of the world's major bond fund managers.

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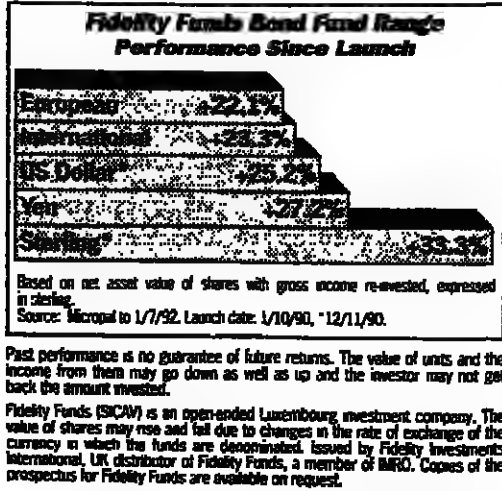
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____

(So that we may call you to answer any questions you have.)

Fidelity Investments



Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 23).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+4	+7	+8	+5	+2		
2	+4	+5	+5	+4	+5		
3	+8	+5	+6	+2	+4		
4	+4	+6	+7	+7	+2		
5	+9	+8	+5	+2	+4		
6	+5	+4	+4	+3	+6		
7	+5	+3	+2	+1	+2		
8	+5	+7	+7	+4	+3		
9	+9	+5	+5	+2	+3		
10	+7	+3	+2	+1	+3		
11	+6	+3	+3	+1	+2		
12	+8	+5	+5	+2	+4		
13	+5	+3	+3	+1	+2		
14	+6	+4	+4	+4	+4		
15	+4	+9	+8	+5	+2		
16	+8	+5	+5	+2	+3		
17	+4	+7	+9	+4	+2		
18	+7	+5	+5	+3	+3		
19	+5	+4	+4	+3	+5		
20	+4	+8	+7	+8	+3		
21	+7	+5	+5	+3	+3		
22	+4	+4	+5	+4	+6		
23	+7	+3	+2	+1	+2		
24	+4	+4	+4	+3	+4		
25	+3	+8	+8	+4	+2		
26	+8	+5	+8	+2	+3		
27	+6	+3	+2	+2	+2		
28	+5	+4	+4	+4	+5		
29	+5	+8	+9	+5	+2		
30	+4	+5	+4	+2	+5		
31	+8	+6	+6	+3	+3		
32	+5	+5	+4	+3	+4		
33	+5	+3	+2	+1	+2		
34	+3	+7	+8	+4	+2		
35	+4	+8	+7	+6	+3		
36	+8	+4	+2	+1	+2		
37	+5	+4	+5	+2	+5		
38	+7	+8	+4	+2	+3		
39	+9	+5	+5	+2	+4		
40	+5	+3	+2	+1	+2		
41	+4	+7	+8	+6	+2		
42	+9	+5	+6	+2	+3		
43	+6	+4	+2	+1	+2		
44	+6	+5	+4	+3	+5		

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Lenders urge housing market lift

Lindsay Cook outlines the rash of advice for the Chancellor this week on reviving property sales

MORTGAGE lenders have wasted no time this week in lining up advice for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, knowing how they would revive the housing market. Most of the schemes would cost at least £1 billion a year.

Abbey National suggested a novel, but unworkable, scheme which would give homeowners who make a loss when they sell a tax credit of up to £10,000. The proposal, a pet project of Sir Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the former building society, was above all intended to get the debate on how to stop prices from spiralling downwards.

The Halifax and Nationwide both confirmed this week that property prices continued to fall during July despite some buyers rushing to beat the August 19 deadline for the return to a £30,000 threshold for stamp duty. This follows eight months when all properties sold for under £250,000. The largest mortgage lender reported that prices fell by 0.4 per cent in July and the Nationwide said that the fall was 0.5 per cent. The Halifax said the reduction over the year was 5.2 per cent and Nationwide 6 per cent.

All lenders are clear that in the long term lower interest

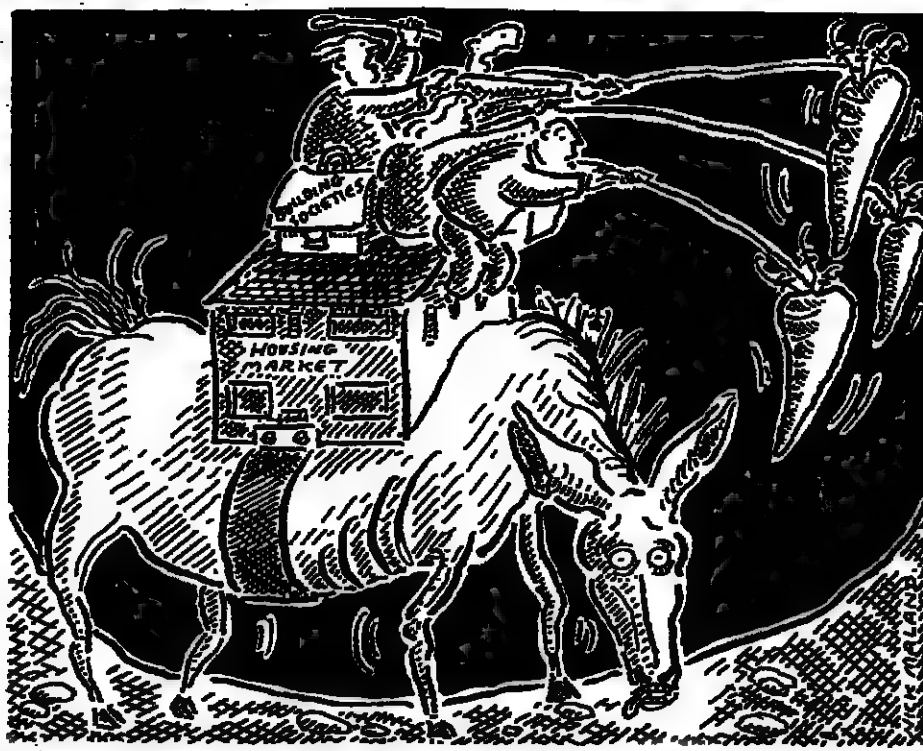
rates are needed but recognise the constraints of entry to the exchange-rate mechanism mean that these cannot be achieved straightaway.

But upward pressure on mortgage rates was reduced this week when National Savings announced cuts in its interest rates by up to 0.8 per cent. Building societies are expected to announce that they had an outflow of at least £300 million in July after the loss of £314 million in June.

This was caused mainly by strong competition from National Savings. If societies had felt the need to increase their savers' rates, mortgage rates would also have been raised.

Abbey National's scheme would give tax credits to people making a loss on properties when they sold them. These would only be available to people who bought another property. The credit to be set against income tax would mean that most recipients would pay no tax at all during the year of their move and could also get a refund.

For most caught in the debt trap, with properties worth less than their outstanding mortgages, there would be difficulty in moving on because all the tax credit and possibly any savings could be used in paying the difference between the



value and the mortgage. Some lenders also fear that by asking for tax credits the Treasury could respond by taxing capital gains on homes. These are currently free of tax and with prices falling or static there would be no immediate cost to homeowners wanting to move. Such a move could put the brakes on house price inflation if it ever outpaced the retail price index again.

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, called

for a doubling of the mortgage tax relief ceiling to £60,000 for new purchases for one year. This extra relief would last for five years. He also suggested a permanent doubling of the stamp duty threshold to £50,000 so that first time buyers do not have to pay it. The cost of doubling the mortgage tax relief ceiling would be £1 billion a year if all purchases were included and £500 million if it were for first time buyers only. Changing stamp duty would cost £840

million a year. Lord Alexander, chairman of National Westminster Bank, the largest mortgage lender among the banks, has also suggested to Treasury officials that the tax relief ceiling should be doubled in the short term and then phased out altogether. The Halifax, the largest mortgage lender, would like help for homeowners on low or reduced incomes in the form of housing benefit. Currently tenants can get state help with their housing but

homeowners cannot. This causes particular hardship for people who lose one job and can only get one paying much less, or for couples where one partner loses their job. In some cases the second partner has to give up a job so that the couple can keep their home. It also favours a doubling of the threshold for stamp duty.

The lenders say they are not just making pleas to prevent their own bad debts on their mortgages from rising. They see the housing market as central to the economy. Sir Christopher said that people did not buy carpets, curtains or other household items if they did not move home.

Any move to help the housing market would have to come before the end of October to have any effect before next spring. By then, 300,000 people could be 12 months or more in arrears with their mortgages or have lost their homes. Currently this number are six months behind with payments. In addition, about one million people, mostly first time buyers, have properties worth less than their mortgages. A further two million have homes worth less than they paid for them.

Mike Jackson, chief executive of Birmingham Midshires, a society that a year ago had higher than average arrears, and now has lower than average arrears, said this week he did not expect to return to arrears levels of the mid eighties in the next four or five years unless measures were taken to help the housing market.



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INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS A FIMBRA MEMBER

Bought in the USA — from your own armchair

By SARA MCCONNELL

BUYING everything from baby clothes to hi-fi equipment over the telephone from the other side of the Atlantic may not sound the easiest or cheapest way to shop.

Visions of customs men ripping open parcels and charging vast amounts of duty sends many rushing for the safety of their nearest (British) shopping centre.

If they do, they could be missing out on a good thing, believes Richard McBrien, author of *Buying Direct from*

the USA. The third edition of this book lists a range of American mail order companies, explains how to obtain their catalogues, order by telephone and pay for goods.

Translations of American clothes and shoe sizes and electric voltages are included, along with a chapter on consumer rights and how customs calculate duty on imported mail order goods.

Of course there would be no point in going to the trouble of buying American if it did

not yield substantial savings. A strong pound has helped, said Mr McBrien, but even before the mail order business had this help from the foreign exchanges, many consumer goods were significantly cheaper in America.

Clothes, sports goods, books, shoes, camera equipment, golf clubs, electronics, hi-fi systems and telephones can all be bought through mail order. Mr McBrien said: "As a rough guide expect to pay in dollars what you would

pay in pounds here." This means savings of nearly 40 per cent on a Sony video camera, which would cost \$865.98 in America and £750 in Britain. Using an exchange rate of \$1.90 to the pound, the video camera in America would cost the equivalent of just £455.78.

Even better savings can be made on a pair of genuine American Levi 501s, which would cost \$34.65 in America and £36.99 in this country. When the American price has been converted into pounds, the cost is £18.23.

This gives plenty of leeway for paying import duty, shipping, value added tax and still obtaining the goods for a much cheaper price, says Mr McBrien. The book explains briefly how import duty is calculated and gives a warning that VAT at 17.5 per cent

is calculated on the total cost of the goods including shipping and duty as well as original price.

Many people will not even have to pay the cost of an international phone call as mail order companies often have toll-free numbers.

Time differences between America and the United Kingdom come in useful for customers who do have to pay, as telephoning is cheaper after 8 pm. When it is 8 pm in the United Kingdom it is early or mid afternoon in most American states.

Buying direct from the USA costs £12.95 including postage and packing and is available from the publishers, Running Heads, 82 East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TW, telephone 071-733 4096.

The best investment trust money can buy?

William Reminger what I said about Foreign & Colonial Performance.

...to five. A five-star rating denotes top marks. The individual ratings are given in the table. Here in order of merit are the analysts' views.

First: Foreign & Colonial. Average star rating: 4.25. Overall view: This trust, Britain's largest, was the only one to achieve a five-star rating from one panellist, with no analyst rating it below four.

Consistency in management and performance were considered key ingredients. It was also viewed as the most international of the six, with the lowest weighting in Britain. The trust, standing at a 10 per cent discount (against an average for the year of 8.4 per cent), was also considered good value.

SNC: "Its long-term performance record is unrivalled. I am a great admirer of Michael Hart. He gears the trust when markets fall and sells into a rising market. He's shown the way to narrow the trust's discount without compromising performance."

SGW: "Consistency is the key — in terms of performance and management."

HL: "It possesses long established management, it is not afraid to go overseas in search of value and it is the perfect example of a trust sensibly using gearing."

CNW: "This is the most internationally invested of the six and has the lowest yield. But it has performed excellently over the long term. Unfortunately it is not a qualifying PEP trust."

Second: Alliance Assurance

This advertisement first appeared as editorial in the Sunday Telegraph Investment Trust Survey, 2nd August 1992.

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*Source: Mitrail, figures to 13 July 1992, offer to bid, income reinvested.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on the weekly dividend figure on this page. If you are a shareholder of the company, you will receive a dividend payment on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Union Die	Bank/Disc	
2	Paton	Electrical	
3	Nordic Peak	Food	
4	Swire Pacific	Bank/Disc	
5	Abbey Natl	Bank/Disc	
6	Hilldown	Food	
7	Macfarlane	Industrial	
8	Howden	Industrial	
9	Cape	Industrial	
10	LASMO	Oil/Gas	
11	Radio Clyde	Leisure	
12	Intersec Op	Industrial	
13	Time & Life	Food	
14	Decca	Bank/Disc	
15	Land Serv	Property	
16	Owens Alrd	Leisure	
17	Security Serv	Industrial	
18	Dig Moun	Industrial	
19	Polypipe	Industrial	
20	Advent	Industrial	
21	Clarke Foods	Food	
22	Enam	Draper/St	
23	Ramoth	Chem/Plas	
24	BSS Group	Industrial	
25	Unichem	Industrial	
26	Booth Inds	Industrial	
27	GKN	Industrial	
28	Usher Walker	Paper/Print	
29	Brison	Property	
30	TRM	Building/Rd	
31	Argos Plc	Draper/St	
32	GWR Op	Leisure	
33	Benson Crap	Food	
34	Hickson	Chem/Plas	
35	Smithline	Industrial	
36	Vickers	Industrial	
37	Alcon	Draper/St	
38	Smiths Ind	Industrial	
39	Hardy Hans	Breweries	
40	Merchant Retail	Food	
41	WV Ind	Industrial	
42	BOC	Electrical	
43	Schneider	Bank/Disc	
44	Star	Industrial	

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Place tick into account any other signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily share price for the weekly dividend of £4.00 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr I Reid, of Surrey, Mr B West, of Tunbridge Wells, and Mr H McGill, of London EC27, each receive £2,000.

1992 High Low Company Price +/-% Net Yld P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	1991	Low Company	Price	Oct.	Nov.	Ytd	P/E
BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP							
112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119
120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127
128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135
136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151
152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159
160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167
168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175
176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183
184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191
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232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239
240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247
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264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271
272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279
280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287
288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295
296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303
304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311
312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319
320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327
328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335
336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343
344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351
352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359
360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367
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376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383
384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391
392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399
400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407
408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415
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440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447
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456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463
464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471
472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479
480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487
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496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503
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512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519
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528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535
536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543
544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551
552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559
560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567
568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575
576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583
584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591
592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599
600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607
608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615
616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623
624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631
632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639
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664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671
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680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687
688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695
696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703
704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711
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864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871
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1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119
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ELECTRICALS

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ROUND BRITAIN YACHT RACE

Sailors compete with the might of the oceans

More than thirty yachts set sail from Cowes today in the first Hartlepool Renaissance race, a 1,860 mile round-Britain challenge. Barry Pickthall reports

The excitement and challenge of the old British Islands Race, last staged 12 years ago, is being revived this year by Teesside Development Corporation. It is sponsoring the third fully-crewed round Britain yacht race which starts today. The event, organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, was previously run in 1976 and 1980. The race has been renamed the Hartlepool Renaissance to celebrate the port's transformation from near dereliction to thriving marina, and the revival of its strong maritime traditions.

The time for the competitors to beat is six minutes short of 11 days, the record for the 1,860 mile endurance race set by Robin Knox-Johnston and his crew aboard *More O'possum* in 1976. "It's eminently beatable. In fact I am surprised it has stood this long," says Knox-Johnston, who has tackled the testing circumnavigation of Britain and Ireland seven times in all. The prospect of beating Knox-Johnston's record has attracted at least four of the 31 entries to the Hartlepool Renaissance race. The largest is Mike Slade's *Ocean Leopard*, an 80ft luxury cruising yacht, which already holds the monobull record around the Isle of Wight and has since been fitted with a deeper racing keel.

"It's going to be something of a David and Goliath contest," David Alan Williams, who skips the 57 tonne yacht, says. His crew have

dubbed her "The Blue Hotel" because of the yacht's luxurious interior, but he admits that carrying a washing machine and tumble dryer around Britain is something of a handicap in light airs.

"In a blow, she's like an express train, but in light conditions, smaller, light displacement yachts like the *Colin Watkins* skippered *Dump Truck* and Don Parr's *Quail* of *Wight* will be very competitive. They will certainly be keeping us on our toes."

In the 1991 Round the Isle and race, an annual pilgrimage around the Isle of Wight for 1,500 crews, the conditions were perfect for the 80 footer. Her design is modelled on the former Whitbread round the world race yacht *Crightons* *Naturally* and she creamed around the course at an average of 9.8 knots, three knots faster than Knox-Johnston's average for the longer circumnavigation in 1976. This year

however, conditions around the Wight were at their most capricious and *Ocean Leopard* remained glued to the water. "We were three-quarters of the way round before we even caught up with *Dump Truck*," Alan Williams says.

This year's race is the first of the three organised by the RORC to have compulsory stops en-route. The 24-hour stopovers at Cork, Lerwick and Hartlepool, cause no great diversions, but make Knox-Johnston's time of ten days, 23 hours, 54 minutes the benchmark, rather than the record

to beat. His 48ft yacht, after all, had to sail fully provisioned and the course, that year, left out St Kilda, that craggy outcrop of rocks north of the Outer Hebrides.

The 13 yachts competing in British Islands Race in 1980 met severe conditions most of the way round. "It was filthy weather," Don Parr, the Admiral of the RORC, says. But the memory has not stopped him from making this his fifth circumnavigation. Parr finished third that year after stopping to assist a yacht in distress. The weather was so bad that even the winning Italian yacht, skippered by Carlo di Montola Balestra, could not get anywhere near the record. His time was 12 days, ten hours, 42 minutes, an average of 6.23 knots.

Others challenging for handicap rather than line honours among the class 1 fleet, include Richard Fenhalls with his Swan 57 *Noonmark*

'I have had a lifelong ambition to sail round Britain'

cruiser/racer *Barracuda* (renamed *Dolphin* for this race) while Matthew Humphries and his youth crew have a production one-tonner, *The Youth Challenge*.

Others have the adventure rather than the ultimate prize as their goal. *Hartlepool Renaissance*, the 71ft training yacht skippered by Bill Broad, will be carrying a crew of raw recruits. Another is *Multiple Challenge*, one of three Sigma 38s entered. Skippered by Nick Booth, who has spent the past year training crews for next month's British Steel Challenge

round the world race, the yacht has 16 multiple sclerosis sufferers taking it in turns to sail a leg of the course.

There are also a couple of sailing school entries that will doubtless want to make a private race of it. *Drake's Drum* skippered by Terry Rowe is operated by International Ocean Ventures and covers more than 12,000



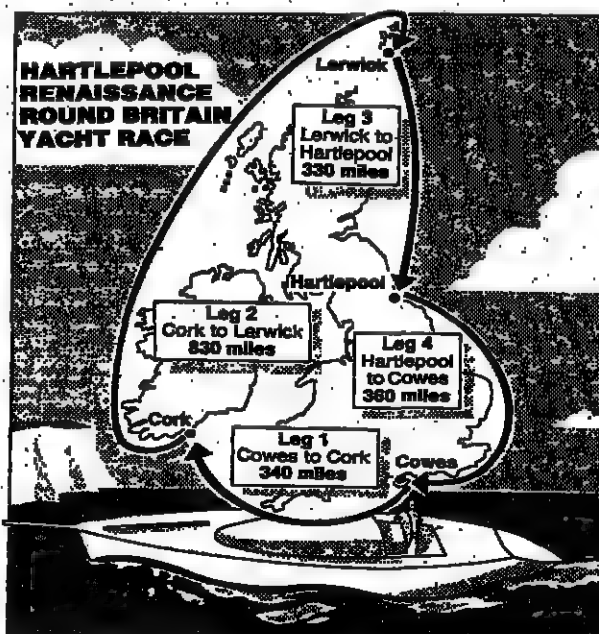
All hands on deck: the Tomato, one of the yachts that will compete in the Hartlepool Renaissance race skippered by Jean-Louis Fabry

WAITING FOR THE CANNON: THE ENTRIES

CLASS I	Name	Skipper	Sail No	Yacht type
Ocean Leopard	Mike Slade	K13657	Ocean 80	
Hartlepool Renaissance	Bill Broad	T50438	Clarke 71	
Quail of Wight	Don Parr	K3000	63ft Gurney One-off	
Noonmark V	Richard Fenhalls	K564	Swan 57	
Dump Truck	Colin Watkins	K514	Dubois 54	
Dolphin	James Hatfield	K107	45 Caim	
Bon Vourloir III	Gerard Louyet (Fr)	F14601	45ft K452	
Bounder	Chris Little	K2566	Beneteau 45/5	
Sea Biscuit II	Paul Stafford	K12867	Beneteau First 405	
Hindsight	Trevor Hill	K44187	Sigma 400	
The Youth Challenge	Matthew Humphries	K9863	39ft X119	
Inch	John & Bridget Watkinson	K466	35ft Jeanneau Selection	
Tomato	Jean-Louis Fabry (Fr)	F7500	Jeanneau 55ft One-design	
Humburg	Ronald England Hopkins	K516	Cystus 41	
	Georg Christensen (Ger)	G2033	585 one-off Michael Klausmann	
CLASS II	Name	Skipper	Sail No	Yacht type
Surestone	Tom & Vicky Jackson	K2183	38ft 585 one-off	
Multiple Challenge	Nick Booth	K8293	Sigma 38	
Raspallion	Ian Postlethwaite	K8316	Sigma 38	
Corrills II	Roger Raven	K3807	Sigma 38	
River de la Mer	Derek Astridge	K19617	Dehler 38	
Samaritan	A P Olin (Neth)	M444	Canter 37	
Silver Apple	Arie van Hee	E115	Holland 36	
Drake's Drum	Terry Rowe	K3944	Sigma 36	
Barbette II	Angus Tavernier	K982	Dehler 34	
April Storm	Harold Usherwood	K19917	Storm 33	
Prasprazm	Roldan Jungblut (Ger)	G125	Electron 32	
CLASS III	Name	Skipper	Sail No	Yacht type
Ann Speed IV	Nigel Lawson Dick	K34717	Sadler 34	
Brandy Bottle	R Poldnick	K4121	Ufo 34	
Clarinet	Paul March/Kate Bottomore	K195	585 one-off	
Deerstalker	Michael Taylor-Jones	K696	585 34	
Jade	John Horn	K21867	Storm 33	

From grime and graft to pink gin and poop decks

Hartlepool's transformation of its dying docks has put a once great port back on the sailors' map



Many of the town's unemployed should find work in the marina's tourism spin-off. Hartlepool's craftsmen have shown their skills with the restoration of HMS Warrior, one of the navy's first iron warships now on permanent display in Portsmouth dockyard. Their talent has been turned to renovating another historic ship, HMS Trincomalee, Britain's oldest warship still afloat. Two years ago the rotting, dismantled Napoleonic hulk was towed from Portsmouth to Hartlepool for a £5 million restoration programme and will ultimately become the centrepiece of a major tourist attraction.

Close by, another coup for the town will soon be taking shape, the maritime branch of the Imperial War Museum, which will house all sea-going exhibits. The museum, brought to Hartlepool against strong competition, is expected to attract 400,000 visitors annually.

The borough council is playing its part in the rejuvenation. Pilloried four years ago by the Audit Commission for its lack of direction, it came back with a strategic plan for the future. Last year the commission returned and was fulsome in its praise for the new policies aimed at restoring local pride, jobs and the environment. There are plans for new industry and housing on 500 acres of the former British Steel south works and other disused heavy industry sites.

Last month Hartlepool bid successfully for a £37.5 million grant from the government's City Challenge scheme to open up a shopping and business corridor from the town centre to the marina. The cash will also pay for retraining programmes to match workers from the old industries to the needs of the new.

Not bad for a town whose only other claim to fame was its nineteenth century insularity and ignorance that led a mob of citizens to try, convict and hang a monkey washed ashore from a French wreck as a Bonapartist spy.

PAUL WILKINSON

THE TIMES

FORTHCOMING SAILING COLOUR SUPPLEMENTS



SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW
10TH SEPTEMBER 1992

BRITISH STEEL CHALLENGE
Round The World Yacht Race
24TH SEPTEMBER 1992

For Further Information Contact:

SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW - NEIL CROOK 071-782 7905
BRITISH STEEL CHALLENGE - ROSS WEBSTER 071-782 7685

Hartlepool and yachting at first blush seem about as compatible as peaches and creosote. How, one might think, does a depressed northeastern town with a reputation for the grime and graft of coal exports and heavy industry get into white sails, pink gins on the poop deck and the upwardly mobile image of messing about in boats?

The answer is nobody is quite sure and even the Teesside Development Corporation which thought up the idea has been surprised at how the notion of creating a sailing centre has taken off.

Hartlepool had a great maritime tradition, but not in the pretty boats for pleasure sector. Once Britain's third biggest commercial port, Hartlepool has built freighters for the world's trade routes, sent Durham coal to foreign buyers and exported steel from its own foundries. Today Durham's coal industry is all but dead and the steel works have disappeared, but Duncan Hall, the development corporation's chief executive, saw a way to turn that tradition in a new direction. A marina was an obvious project for the near derelict south docks which were presented to his corporation in 1987 with government orders to "do something".

"It was never an idealistic creation foisted on the community. The whole thing was led by the market," he says. "We began with plans for 82 berths, but the rush for space meant we had to double it again." Ultimately it will have 750 berths let at a market rent.

In the process, the development corporation has spent £14 million re-locating the harbour authority and another £9 million on improving sea defenses before the first ship of concrete for the £165 million marina could be poured. All the 164 berths so far completed are occupied and there is a waiting list.

Initial scepticism was confounded, although there are still those who doubt the benefit in jobs that the project will bring to a town where unemployment averages 15

per cent. Mr Hall is non-committal about the number of jobs that the development corporation has created, but he does highlight the huge inward investment it brings. Having set the maritime

theme, it was logical to pursue it and the corporation has encouraged attention by sponsoring the round Britain race.

Hartlepool will be the destination of the fleet on the first east-coast leg from Lerwick and for the start of the final dash to Cowes. One of the entrants is a 72ft ketch named after the port development, the *Hartlepool Renaissance*. It is one of three boats owned by the Farnham Trust, a new charity set up at the request of the Bishop of Durham, as a spin-

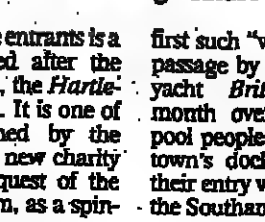
off from the development, to provide sail-training for youngsters who might never otherwise receive it.

The development corporation then took the word worldwide, sponsoring the *Pride of Teesside*, one of the ten identical all-steel cutters participating in the British Steel Challenge which starts next month.

The yachts will circumnavigate the globe against the prevailing winds and tides to mark the 21st anniversary of the

first such "wrong way round" passage by Chay Blyth in his yacht *British Steel*. Last month over 20,000 Hartlepool people turned up on the town's dockside to wave off their entry when she sailed for the Southampton start-line.

Hall: building a future



Today Cowes, tomorrow the world

James Hatfield and Matthew Humphries have similar missions — to break down the barriers that have for so long surrounded sailing.

Their separate entries in the Hartlepool Renaissance race are destined to show that yachting can and should be open to all, irrespective of age or handicap, and to act as a springboard for their entries in next year's Whitbread round the world classic.

Hatfield, who was born with a hole in the heart, was voted Britain's "yachtsman of the year" in 1987, after beating all the medical odds by completing a solo circumnavigation of the world. He is in training, with a handicapped crew, for next year's Whitbread race.

Humphries, 21, the youngest man to have completed a Whitbread race — aboard the venerable British maxi *With Integrity* three years ago — is destined to lead a youth team in next year's race.

Last year, the former Olympic sailing squad member launched his own youth training programme to prove that young people could take on responsibility and compete on

Two talented skippers are doing their utmost to help yachting shed its outdated elitist image

even terms with senior teams. Humphries and his crew, all aged between 18 and 22, surprised the sailing world in last year's Fastnet race when, racing his father's 28ft half tonner *Min-O-Din*, they won their class and took the overall Channel handicap prize.

They also won the Junior Offshore Group offshore championship and finished the year second in the Royal Ocean Racing Club's (RORC) points championship.

This year, with the help of limited sponsorship, Humphries and his crew have bought a van and chartered a 40ft production X119 one-tonner which they have renamed *The Youth Challenge*.

So far, they have been challenging the top three in the RORC's offshore series and last month won their division in the Round Ireland race by more than half an hour.

"It was not all plain sailing," Humphries says. "We ran into three illegal drift nets off the

west coast and lost 25 minutes cutting them free." They also lost most of their food, including all their fruit, bread and pasta when the yacht took in water during a spell of rough weather, and had to survive the last few days on tinned tuna and instant potato.

Sponsorship permitting, Humphries is intent on building a 60-footer this winter to campaign in next year's Whitbread.

Hatfield has climbed that first, and hardest, hurdle. His Dolphin Circumnavigation Project has won £1 million in sponsorship from the Sports and Arts Foundation to build a Rob Humphries' designed Whitbread 60. She is due to be launched in November and will carry a handicapped crew.

In the meantime, Hatfield has chartered Bob Fisher's *Barracuda of Tarrant*, the 45-footer made famous in the BBC television series *Howards Way*. The Hartlepool Renaissance race will be the

first stern test for a crew that include an asthmatic amputee and a cancer sufferer.

"If you don't have the commitment, your own determination is never realised," Hatfield says. "Many of our potential crew members do not think of themselves as handicapped, because they have overcome their problems."

Roger Whyld, Hatfield's No 2 on board, is an asthmatic but, according to his skipper, did not consider that his condition was serious enough for him to be considered for the crew. "Tom Brown is another. This American lost his leg when he was ten, but learnt to overcome his handicap so well that he is now a sportsman at Olympic level," he says.

Another shipmate in this round Britain race is Jane Mitchell, a cancer sufferer. "She's been the whole nine yards with the disease, has come through it and has now taken up sailing."

"Another is Charles Oxley, a high flyer in the City, who has one leg shorter than the other — he sails best on starboard tack," jokes Hatfield, who uses humour to dispel prejudices and misgivings about his crew.

"We will be relying on each other's strengths to keep the crew together when the going gets tough," Hatfield says.

He adds: "We are all going to experience being wet, cold and fed up for long periods. I will be pushing them hard to see how each behave under pressure."

In December, Hatfield and his crew take on the Atlantic when they test themselves and their Whitbread yacht on a shake-down cruise to Fort Lauderdale before returning to Southampton in March. "We then go back to the US to compete in the New York to London race in July which will give us the experience of four Atlantic crossings."

"By then, we will be ready to take on the Whitbread," Hatfield predicts.

BARRY PICKTHALL



All-rounder: James Hatfield beat the odds to circumnavigate the world

Fickle forces on the stern

Robin Knox-Johnston, world racing veteran, charts the pleasures and pitfalls of Britain's coastal waters

Racing around Britain is one of the sterner yachting challenges. It may be only 1,860 miles long, just two-thirds of the distance from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island; but the transatlantic crossing is infinitely the easier voyage to make. The ocean after all, is largely free of obstructions. Problems usually arise only close to land.

This race sets a premium on navigation, correct weather forecasting, and above all, a constant eye for other shipping, oil rigs and drift nets that can prove effective arresting gear when snagged around a yacht's keel. Add the hazards of fog, Atlantic storms and sailing at night close to unfamiliar headlands, and the enormity of this challenge becomes apparent.

This is the ninth race around Britain and I have competed in seven of them. Six of these marathons have been the popular two-man classics organised by the Royal Western YC which pit monohulls against multihulls in a four-stop speed chase starting and finishing at Plymouth. This latest race is the third for fully crewed yachts organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, and the first to stop en-route.

Starting from Cowes, the course takes the fleet out through the Western Approaches to the southwest corner of Ireland. It was in this stretch of the Celtic Sea that disaster struck the Fastnet race fleet in 1979, which led to the loss of 15 lives. But the area can just as easily be beset by fog and calm.

The Hartlepool Renaissance fleet has the benefit of instant navigation aids, but in the 1976 race, before Decca and GPS systems made navigation simple, the crew on the Lloyds yacht *Lutine* grandly announced their position at the front of the fleet some 16 miles ahead of us. Amusingly we spotted them soon afterwards crossing our stern.

Such errors, deliberate or otherwise, will be checked during this race against the independent plots carried out by the French Argos satellite tracking system used to follow past race fleets.

Whatever the weather, the Crosshaven stopover has a reputation for providing the best hospitality.

Ireland's west coast is a cruiser's paradise, but its tall craggy headlands, constantly battered by the Atlantic swells, are hard and forbidding. Certainly, this is no place to be caught during a westerly storm, and neither is it safe to snag a fishing net. Crews in previous races have learned to carry a hay fork to unhook themselves rather than cut through the netting, after one trait Irish fisherman threatened to shoot up a trapped

yacht with his shotgun. Once Ireland is astern, the run north past the Hebrides often provides a wild and memorable ride under spinnaker. Thanks to modern navigation aids, St Kilda, those small islands in the northwest of Scotland and home to large colonies of gannets and puffins, is no problem to find even in fog. But 20 years ago, the first warning of their proximity was the sound of breaking waves on the cliffs. It still pays to stand well clear, however, for cutting close to the rock merely leaves you becalmed.

Racing across the top of Scotland towards Mull and Flugga, the northernmost part of the British Isles, the weather can change from being fine and fair one moment to being thick or blowing a gale a few hours later. So often a fast spinnaker run at St Kilda can turn into a stormy beat before the next headland is reached.

It was here at Mull of Flugga during the 1989 two-man round Britain race that Bob Fisher and I opened two half bottles of champagne donated by friends convinced that we would not be on speaking terms at this halfway stage.

The strong tidal streams here can turn the sea into steep mountains and it comes as some relief when reaching the lee of the Shetland Isles. These are the first sheltered waters since leaving the English Channel, and it is here at Lerwick that the race changes character.

For a start, the Boating Club housed on the waterfront at Lerwick, rivals Crosshaven for its open hospitality.

Secondly, the North Sea has been a hive of activity ever since oil was discovered. Apart from the huge platforms and rigs, there is a constant stream of supply vessels between them and the Scottish east coast. The platforms are easy to spot in clear weather, their distinctive flames from burning gas, show for miles, but in fog, they present a considerable hazard.

For many, the lights of Hartlepool could not provide a brighter welcome. From my own experience, there will be little rest on the final stage back to Cowes. There is the Thames Estuary to be crossed, the treacherous Goodwin Sands to be traversed and the ferries to be dodged.

If they are lucky, the fleet will be swept through the Dover Straits on an easterly wind, but the odds are that it will be a hard slog against the wind tacking close inshore all the way back to Cowes.

The keen competition between crews coupled with the satisfaction of making the most of what Mother Nature serves out, is what makes this race such a great challenge.

'Ireland's west coast, battered by Atlantic swells, is hard and forbidding'

Robin Knox-Johnston



INITIATIVE

TALENT

ABILITY

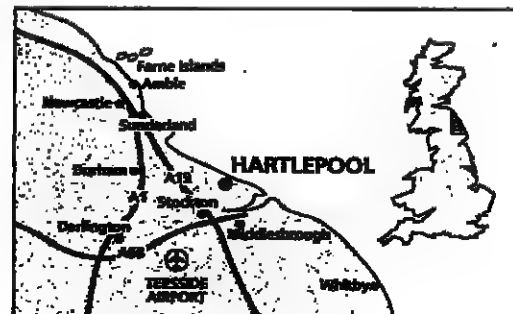
ARGOS The Argos Satellite System will monitor the positions of all the yachts

HARTLEPOOL RENAISSANCE ROUND BRITAIN AND IRELAND YACHT RACE 1992

When you're handling over 30 tonnes of racing yacht through almost 2,000 miles of hostile seas, you need initiative, talent and ability. Attributes that mean the difference between winning and losing.

These same attributes have transformed Hartlepool's former docklands into the £180 million Hartlepool Renaissance - A Marina and Much More, creating a unique waterside environment of housing, leisure and commercial developments. Already in place is a 184 berth marina, complete with new lock gates giving sea access for 18 hours or more a day. Ongoing work includes the provision of a boobyard with hoist, repair facilities and a chandlery. Extensive waterside housing schemes are well advanced, and further projects include a public house/restaurant, hotel and a maritime heritage centre which will house HMS Trincomalee - the world's second oldest floating warship built in 1817 - which is currently undergoing restoration at Hartlepool.

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The Hartlepool Renaissance Round Britain Yacht Race 1992, organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, will see initiative, talent and ability tested to the limits... and beyond.

For further details of the '92 Round Britain Yacht Race contact: Janet Grosvenor, R.O.R.C., 20 St. James's Place, London SW1 1NN. Telephone: (071) 4932248.

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HARTLEPOOL
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A MARINA AND MUCH MORE

YOU

Weighty considerations

can hit the ball faster and transfer that kinetic energy to the ball, useful in the crud sport of baseball where the "sloggers" are the heroes. But baseball is a game of hitting full tosses to "cow corner" and does not present the uncertainties of a steaming or burning pitch.

Yours faithfully,
K. K DUODU.
3, Gwiltet Road, SE15

From Mr B. E. Dickinson
Sir, Further to fighter golf clubs and cricket bats (Sports Letters, July 30), an engineer friend many years ago explained to me the formula for momentum but also theorised, as regards golf, the importance of transferring the momentum to the ball. The longer the club-head is in contact, the more momentum is transferred. He called this "dwelling on the ball".

This appeared to explain why a second shot off the fairway often went further

In the speed with which the ball travels to the boundary.

This is not, however, to say Mr McKinley is wrong in his statement that a lighter ball

Neutrals needed

From Mr Robin A. Chazewee Sr. On the subject of behaviour on the cricket field, Garry Humphreys (Sports Letters July 30) provided a splendid example of the nonsense that we British are capable of writing about ourselves. He accepts that British umpires are good, if not the best in the world. It is, primarily, the British press which asserts this and only some blinkered individuals believe it. The truth is that British umpires are no

winner, who, all-weather and try to
fashion, came capitalise on the top boys
to snatch the being away."

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The victory, which has been better timed as last night the reluctantly retired, the battle-hardened handicapper Rapid Lad because of leg trouble.

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"There were tears last night but when one door closes another one opens," said the Solihull-based owner as he greeted his 9-2 winner, who, in Rapid Lad fashion, came prize from Hornile.

Not many can withstand Michael Roberts in full flight these days so apprentice Russell Price earned his stripes in the Candy Floss Selling Stakes.

Setting sail for home on Big Pat with half-a-mile to run, the pair had their backs to the wall when the Roberts-ridden Forceful put in a strong challenge, but saw it out by neck.

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IOC is ready to step up the fight against drug-taking



Krabbe positive test

THE most disconcerting news for Andrew Davies and Andrew Saxton, the British weightlifters who tested positive for the banned drug, clenbuterol, is that the careers of Katrin Krabbe, the world champion sprinter from Germany, and Jud Logan, the fourth-placed American hammer thrower at the Games, have possibly been terminated by a similar positive test.

Prince Alexandre de Merode, the chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission, whose members work painstakingly in an honorary capacity throughout the Games, said: "The struc-

ture of the commission needs to be adjusted in several ways, but from all the evidence, I am of the opinion that the correct decision was reached in the case of these two British competitors."

The confusion, and also the claim by some, including professor Arnold Beckett, the eminent chemist/pharmacologist, that the weightlifters have been unjustly banned, is caused by clenbuterol having ambivalent qualities.

It is a stimulant and a treatment for asthma, as well as being an anabolic agent, though not a steroid. But the cynics will perhaps rightly ask why so many prominent athletes have suddenly developed

a need for a cure for asthma, or an alleged "tight chest" in Saxton's case.

Dr Jacques Rogge, a Belgian orthopaedic surgeon, three times an Olympic yachtsman, president of his national Olympic committee and an IOC member, is aware of the criticisms in a letter published by *The Times* from Richard Nicholson, the editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*.

This claims that clenbuterol is neither androgenous, promoting male characteristics, nor a steroid. The IOC did not claim it is. Dr

Rogge said yesterday: "This debate by pharmacologists is semantic. It is not important under which area clenbuterol is categorised. It is clearly on the banned list. It aids muscle development as well as assisting asthmatic cases."

Furthermore, Dr Rogge dismisses Nicholson's point on whether or not clenbuterol enhances performance. The objective of the medical commission, Dr Rogge stresses, is not only to eliminate performance-enhancing drugs but to protect competitors from drugs that can damage the health.

The question of whether the presence of the drug was detected in or out of competition is also irrelevant. The weightlifters were as much Olympic competitors in the first week of July as they were in the fourth week, when the test results were announced.

"People are unaware of how hard the commission works," Dr Rogge said. "De Merode is performing a tremendous job. What is needed is a full-time, professional medical director working at IOC headquarters between the Olympic Games and with the help of a large budget."

Thomas Springstein, Krabbe's coach, has admitted having bought clenbuterol

on the black market and that he was ignorant of the drug's categorisation within the IOC's banned list.

Nicholson's accusation that the medical commission's drug regulations are the only part of the Olympic movement that remain amateur is inaccurate as well as a weak joke. The commission contains some of the most knowledgeable scientists in the pharmacological field, such as Beckett and Dr Manfred Donike of Germany.

Part of de Merode's proposed reorganisation is that in reaching decisions of positive tests, the experts will be called only to give technical evidence, not judgment. "In

criminal cases of shooting," de Merode says, "ballistic experts are asked to give technical evidence and opinions, not judgments."

Nicholson called for guidance from clinical pharmacologists, experienced in the effects of drugs prescribed for patients. Mary Glen-Haig, a British IOC member, who works on the medical commission, has already made that recommendation and it will be exercised. But suggestions by various competitors that clenbuterol is a "safe" drug is denied by Dr Marie Ljungqvist, of Sweden, the chairman of the medical commission of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Livingston takes legal steps to prove innocence

JASON Livingston, the British sprinter sent home from the Olympics after failing a drugs test taken two weeks previously, said yesterday he was taking legal advice in an attempt to prove his innocence.

The 21-year-old European indoor 60 metres champion issued a statement to the Press Association protesting his innocence after being "inundated" with requests for interviews.

Issued through the International Athletes' Club (IAC), it reads: "This is to clarify the situation regarding the recent adverse finding of Methandianone, a banned substance, in my urine sample given in out-of-competition testing on July 15, 1992."

"As I previously stated, I have never knowingly taken any banned substance nor any product that contains a banned substance."

"The finding of Methandianone in my sample is still a complete mystery and shock to me. I am currently taking legal advice and all aspects of the test are being looked at to see where a mistake could have occurred. No further statement will be made until the disciplinary hearing."

Livingston is expected to appear before a British Athletic Federation (BAF) hearing some time in the next fortnight to put his case. He faces a four-year ban from the sport if the findings are upheld.

He is being advised by David Bedford, the IAC president and chairman of his club, Sharnbury Harriers. Bedford, who is also BAF honorary secretary and a member of the federation's drugs advisory group, said he would be prepared to represent Livingston at the hearing if the sprinter's legal advisers felt it useful.

"Jason felt a short statement at this time was necessary

because he was being inundated with requests to say something to satisfy media interest," Bedford said.

It is believed Livingston has received five-figure offers to reveal his story exclusively to some national newspapers. Clive Ingham, the United States Olympic Committee spokesman, Mike Moran, said Gwen Torrence, who won the women's 200 metres on Thursday, might be sent home early if she persisted in accusing other competitors of taking drugs.

"We are talking to Gwen Torrence now," he said. "She is accusing competitors here at the Games of cheating and she has no right to do that. What she is saying is totally inappropriate."

"We have a code of conduct that requires athletes to behave in a manner that brings credit and honour to the United States. She signed it," he said.

After the women's 100 metres last Saturday, Torrence, who was fourth, accused the winner, Gail Devers, an American, of taking drugs. She made further allegations on Thursday against other competitors and also the absent German world champion, Katrin Krabbe. Blood testing was the only effective way of catching the cheats, she said.

Yesterday, Moran said: "Gail Devers was tested four times in the last year, including two out-of-competition tests. Each result showed absolutely no indication of any kind of banned substance. 'If (Torrence) refuses to comply with instructions to stop making comments about drugs, she may have to pack her bags.' The USOC was refusing to say whether an early departure would bar her from President Bush's White House reception for the Olympic team next Tuesday."

Marginal foul by Bevan deprives Britain of three men in javelin final

Backley wavers from golden path

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN BARCELONA



STEVE Backley seemed less assured yesterday than he had earlier in the week about his chances of today becoming Britain's first Olympic men's javelin champion.

Was there one particular danger man, he had been asked on Tuesday. "Only myself," he replied. But, after the qualifying round, not a confident word passed his lips.

Backley retreated from journalists to a chair beneath the stadium where we could observe but not interview him. "I am ready to compete," he had been telling us on Tuesday. Now, with an ice-pack applied to his right elbow, he did not look so.

"The ice-pack is a precautionary measure," John Jeffrey, Britain's assistant team manager, reported. "It should not be a problem." At least the worst part was over for Backley; he had avoided another qualifying round exit to go with the one he suffered

at the world championships in Tokyo last year.

Through the first round, he had to live with the prospect again. His opening throw failed to make the qualifying grade. He threw 79.36 metres, short of the 80.00 metres needed to guarantee a place in the final.

Backley's comments were passed on by Jeffrey. He was said to have felt complacent on the first throw, that he thought he could just "lob it out" and expect to qualify. His second round effort was good enough and, with 80.76 metres, he qualified ahead of three of his closest rivals, the Finns, Seppo Rauty, Kimmo Kinnunen and Juha Laukkanen.

Finland has won the last two Olympic titles, courtesy of Arto Harkonen, in 1984, and Tapio Korhonen. It is the only country to have three men in the final. But for a controversial disqualification of Nigel Bevan, Britain would have had three as well.

Still far off qualifying going into his final throw, Bevan sent the javelin beyond 80 metres, but was given a red flag for touching the line with his foot. Bevan felt he had stayed within the runway, but controlled his anger towards the judge. "I am a teacher, so I cannot argue with officials," he said.

Other than in relays, Britain's only representative, apart from in the javelin, in a final today is Rob Denmark, in the 5,000 metres. Half the field is from Africa and probably only Salvatore Antibo, from Italy, can hope to break into the medal positions.

Denmark, ninth in the world final last year, said that he found his semi-final hard. However, his cause has been aided by the removal of a round due to insufficient entries. Denmark is more a speed 5,000 metres runner than a strength one. His best hope is for a slow final.

"There are only two in the final with a faster kick than me," Denmark said. He named Dieter Baumann, of Germany, and Fita Bayesa, of Ethiopia. However, Yobes Ondieki and Paul Bitok, of Kenya, are likely to set a pace designed to break the field early.



Successful aim: Backley unleashes his throw of 80.76 metres yesterday

Sailors can heed New Zealand attitude

IS IT enough merely to compete in the Olympics? It is a question British yachtsmen and coaching staff must all confront after the Barcelona Games.

The euphoria surrounding the bronze medal won by Lawrie Smith and his crew in the Soling keelboat class could not mask the disappointing performance of the British squad billed as the best prepared team the nation had produced.

So what went wrong? "We need more money," Rod Carr, the chief coach of Britain, said. "It costs around £1 million a medal," he added as he pointed to the vast sums spent by the teams from Spain, the United States and France.

The Spanish were the success story of these Games. Their sailing team has jumped from a solitary gold medal four years ago to walking away with five medals this time, four of them gold, and supported to the tune of £800,000 a year for the past three seasons from Fortuna, the government-owned cigarette brand.

In contrast, the British squad has had to work within budgets of £400,000 this year, £300,000 in 1991 and £200,000 in 1990, thanks in part to support from Richard Ellis, the property consultants.

But though sailors have had to buy their own equipment, the top people in the British squad have not lacked for money. Way, Edgington and Smith, Brotherton and

Hemmings, the 470 pair, as well as Stuart Childerley, all attracted sponsorship to buy and maintain their boats.

The argument that money can buy medals is confounded by the performance of the New Zealand team, which picked up two silvers and a bronze despite an austerity programme for these Games.

Carr describes New Zealand's consistent performance over the years as an enigma within the big picture. Yet perhaps there are more lessons to be learned from this small country than by comparing the British programme with that of the US, or even Spain.

Limited money has not stopped Britain from producing a long line of world and European champions over the

years. The fact that these champions, with few exceptions, have failed consistently to turn in medal-winning performances at the Olympics, suggests that the real problems lie within our coaching systems.

Both here, Pusan four years ago and at Long Beach in 1984, too many crews lost sight of the real objective. Most campaigns were aimed at winning selection rather than a medal and, when it came to the Games, these programmes had already peaked.

What we lack is the New Zealanders' natural thirst for success—and it will take more than money to instil it in the British squad heading for Savannah in four years.

BARRY PICKTHALL

Jamieson last and disqualified

ERIC Jamieson, Britain's fastest canoeist, finished last in the C1 500 metres final yesterday and was then disqualified. Jamieson, appearing in his fourth Olympic final, said: "I don't know why I was disqualified but it must have been the five metres rule. You are not allowed to get within five metres of another canoe and I guess I was too close to the Czech guy on my right. I'm not going to protest. If I'd been in the medals that would have been different. I

would have preferred to have been eighth rather than disqualified but it doesn't really matter now."

After seventh place in the C2 final in the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, and ninth in the C1 500 and 1,000 in the Seoul Olympics 1988, Jamieson clocked 1min 56.61sec in Barcelona, nearly three seconds slower than his best time.

"I got off to a bad start which cost me half to three-quarters of a length and a lot of effort," he said. "I made up a lot of ground in the middle of the race but there is only so

much fuel in the tank and if you burn it up too quickly you are in trouble."

Nikolai Boukhalov, of Bulgaria, was the surprise winner in 1min 51.1sec, just ahead of the hot favourite, Mikhail Silinski, of the Unified Team. Olaf Heukrodt, of Germany, took the bronze.

Jamieson has no retirement plans: "Today I could have had a better race but I could not have worked harder. I'm very pleased to have got into another Olympic final... but next year I shall be even faster."

I've just won a gold medal for excellence. Still, it's not the winning that's important, it's the partaking.



PURE GENIUS.



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CRICKET

Glamorgan take heart from Dale's defiance

By RICHARD STREETON

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of three): Glamorgan won toss; Nottinghamshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 317 runs behind Glamorgan

THIS match clears one of the two games Nottinghamshire have in hand over Essex, who stand 32 points ahead of them at the top of the championship table, and they cannot afford to lose it. A dry, worn-looking pitch, devoid of grass, was provided for Glamorgan, the bottom side, yesterday but a workmanlike hundred by Adrian Dale enabled them to hold their own.

Dale was the only Glamorgan batsman who managed to build an innings after getting a sight of the ball on a gloomy, overcast day.

Nottinghamshire included Afford, a second spinner, in preference to Pennett, a seamer, and on Monday the selection could be justified. Dale, however, saw to it that, initially, the play was fuelled. For a long time he was anonymous and efficient but he cut loose in the closing stages against the slow bowlers.

When Dale off-drove Hemmings in the 94th over for his thirteenth four he had faced 187 balls and had contributed 103 of the 158 runs added while he was at the wicket. He dominated an eighth-wicket partnership with Watkin, whose share of a stand of 57 was two singles.

Dale went on to ensure that Glamorgan gained maximum bonus points and had reached a career-best 150 not out when Glamorgan declared 25 minutes before the close. Dale hit 21 fours, faced 233 balls and batted just under four hours.

Given the conditions, it was unexpected that for long peri-

ods the best Nottinghamshire bowler was Kevin Evans. Almost unnoticed, he has been a consistent and reliable performer with the ball this season. He must be credited with helping to cover the deficiencies of the Nottinghamshire attack.

Lewis has been absent through representative calls. Cairns took time to settle. Cooper has been unavailable with back trouble. Hemmings, too, has had a lengthy injury. Afford has gone through one of those crises of confidence which periodically seem to afflict left-arm spinners.

On this occasion Cairns bowled Morris early on before Evans twice broke partnerships which were threatening to develop. He finished with three for 48 from 22 overs.

Afford, who has not played since mid-July, bowled more steadily than his figures suggest.

James and the left-handed Hemmings added 57 for the second wicket before James aimed a loose square cut and was caught behind. Maynard, similarly, contributed to his own downfall when he made room to drive Afford in his second over and lifted a catch into the covers.

Hemp survived two chances to backswing a leg against Evans but reached a hard-earned 51 before he fell to a bat-and-pad catch by Robinson, one of three good, close catches the Nottinghamshire captain held.

Cottee stayed 23 overs with Dale before Evans had him caught off a glove by French down the leg side. Croft and Metson came and went before Watkin began his 14 overs of defiance. Watkin was finally held at silly point before Foster stayed until the declaration.



Not expensive: Stewart fumbled this chance to stump Miandad on 49 but he fell to Lewis ten runs later

Pakistan are the new masters of swing

JOHN WOODCOCK AT THE OVAL

ALEC Bedser was at the Test match yesterday. So, therefore, was Eric. When they joined Surrey in the late 1930s bowlers coming to the Oval for a trial, with pretensions to bowl at medium pace, were taken to the nets, handed a new ball and asked to show whether or not they could swing it. Those unable to do so were thanked for their attendance and went back into the field.

The Bedders would have it that natural swingers of the ball make the best bowlers. None, of course, was ever more natural than Alec. But why are there so many fewer of them in English cricket today than there used to be?

With outfields lush than they were, and bowlers and fielders polishing the ball as they never did and twenty bowlers now to every one who was at the required pace, we should have more who swing it, not almost none at all.

The Pakistanis are able to do things with the ball at whatever pace, which are beyond virtually every English bowler. Without such ingenuity in Pakistan they would long ago have given up the ghost. When England were batting on Thursday they were never quite sure

what the ball would do next. In terms of versatility and variety this is a wonderfully good Pakistan attack. England's for their part, has to try to make up in perseverance what they lack in flair — except at Headingley, where the conditions do it for them.

Yesterday England just kept plugging away. Although the one bowler on their side who can be relied upon to swing the ball — and the atmosphere was conducive to it — their estimable captain never turned his arm over. How stubborn he can be! He seems to have got it

into his head that a limited number of cricketers playing in a strictly circumscribed way provide England in the field with their only realistic chance. It has brought them, what is more, an improved record since he took over but I am blessed if I think they play as well as they could.

However, this match is not quite lost yet. We would have a better chance with a second spinner, but Pakistan have not yet got clean away. As I watched Shaoh holding their innings together yesterday I thought how proud and delighted Hanif, his father, as dapper as ever, must have been as he saw him at it. Hanif spent the first twenty

years of Pakistan's existence doing the same himself, though, not, in fact, when they gained their famous victory over England here at the Oval in 1954.

England felt able to choose sides of convenience against Pakistan in those days. Parties for the winter tour were named at the end of July, to leave, by sea, in the second week of September. Frank Tyson and Peter Londer had just been picked for Australia and to give them their first Test caps the selectors "tested" Alec Bedser and Trevor Bailey. If anyone could afford to take such liberties today it would be Pakistan — and the game is the better for that.

Hampshire prove less than festive

CANTERBURY (first day of three): Hampshire won toss; Hampshire have scored 288 against Kent

EVEN the most celebrated of festival weeks cannot always feature festive cricket. Take yesterday, when Hampshire batted without charm or ardour and, for that matter, David Gower or Robin Smith. That might explain why they rarely managed to score at three runs an over.

Given their long and colourful association with Canterbury week, this was particularly disappointing. No county has come here more frequently at this time of the year. It was during the 1961 festival that Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie told the BBC his Hampshire side's curfew was breakfast time.

Hampshire won the champ-

ionship that year. Yesterday they looked as if they had reached a jaded stage of the season. Their aim now is to finish in the top three, their cricket reflecting a realisation that becoming champions again is unrealistic.

Middleton's aim is seemingly to bat for ever. His 52

Eton line up first cup

ETON Ramblers, who have not previously reached a Beachcroft Stanley's Cricketer Cup final, are favourites to win it at Vincent Square, Westminster, tomorrow against Repton Pilgrims (Ivo Tennant writes).

Eton will be led by Barclay, once captain of Sussex. They include Robins, the grandson of a former England captain, Whittington, a Middlesex left-arm spinner, and Dean, a fast

bowler whom Fletcher, England's cricket manager-elect, feels would be playing first-class cricket had he had better coaching when young.

Repton, twice winners of the cup, are led by Procter.

ETON RAMBLERS: J Barclay (capt), R Macleay, C Robins, M Brooks, M Ridd, J O'Brien, G Hayman, S J Rhodes, P J Newson, R K Kinghorn, N V Radford and C G Bailey. Bowler points, Lancashire 4, Worcestershire 2. Umpires: J D Bond and G I Burgess.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

B G Bisset not out 10

P R Pollock not out 10

Total (no wickets) 20

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-48, 3-110, 4-147, 5-205, 6-205, 7-214, 8-271.

BOWLING: Cairns 10-1-22-2, Evans 22-7-48-3, Crawley 5-1-17-2, Hemmings 23-9-78-1, Afford 31-9-105-2.

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SATURDAY AUGUST 8 1992

Race to find the fashionable new drug in sport was started last year

Canadians seek clenbuterol cheats

CANADA, whose sporting image was tarnished by the Ben Johnson scandal at Seoul four years ago, have already started an investigation into clenbuterol, sport's new fashion drug. Canadian, German and British experts yesterday confirmed that Canadian testers first drew attention to the drug last year after noting that its anabolic muscle-building properties had made it popular with cheats.

"This drug was being used by a large number of athletes in a large number of sports," Dr Andrew Pipe, chief medical officer of the Canadian Olympic team, said. "It's my personal view that people are not taking it for its stimulant properties despite claims to the contrary. They are taking it to increase their lean muscle mass," he said.

At least five leading athletes have tested positive for clenbuterol, a stimulant and anabolic agent licensed in some countries to treat asthma, at or away from the Games in Barcelona in the last month.

Katrin Krabbe, the women's double world sprint champion, and her German club mate, Grit Breuer, neither of whom is at the Olympics, tested positive for clenbuterol in analysis of urine samples from out-of-competition random tests in Germany. They face a four-year ban from athletics if second samples confirm the findings.

Jud Logan, the hammer thrower, on Thursday became the first United States athlete to be expelled from an Olympics since 1976 after he tested positive following his fourth place finish in the final. Logan, 33, has said he used clenbuterol as a "safe alternative to steroids" but stopped taking it in April.

Two British weightlifters, Andrew Saxton and Andrew Davies, were sent home from Barcelona last week after testing positive for the drug before the Games.

Canada stepped up its drug testing programme for athletes after Johnson's disgrace in Seoul, where he was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal for using the banned anabolic steroid, stanozolol. Krabbe has confirmed she began taking clenbuterol in April but said she had been told that it was not on doping lists.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirmed last week that the drug was banned not only as a stimulant but also as an anabolic agent because its pharmacological properties and chemical structure make it related to anabolic steroids. Pipe said that the drug was easily detectable. "Clenbuterol is excreted almost unchanged in urine," he said.



Charles Bremner, page 8
Simon Barnet, page 14
David Miller, page 28
Britain's bronze, page 29
Results, page 29

Most straight stimulants are banned only in competition by the IOC and national and international sports federations, while anabolic steroids are banned inside and outside competition.

Some sports officials have questioned whether athletes found to have taken clenbuterol out of competition before the medical commission ruling could legitimately be suspended from sport because the drug had not been banned by name. But Arne Ljungqvist, the medical commissioner, said clenbuterol was covered by the catch-all term "and related compounds" which follows names of explicitly banned substances on doping lists.

"If we started listing every substance then the general clause would lose its meaning," Ljungqvist, who also chairs the International Amateur Athletic Federation's commission, said.

He said that athletes and trainers may have been careless in their reading of anti-doping rules and felt "wrongly" that clenbuterol was permitted out of competition. But he said lack of knowledge was no excuse. "It's your responsibility to know what you take."

John Major visited the Olympic sites yesterday on a brief trip to the Games. He was met at Barcelona airport by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC, went to watch the volleyball, had a lunch with local officials and then hosted a reception for the British team in the evening.

This was attended by several members of the IOC, including Anton Geesink, of Holland, and Prince Alexandre Merode, of Belgium. Major was last night at the stadium to watch the women's 10,000m.



Favourite grounded: Bubka falls on the mat after missing his second pole vault attempt yesterday

Bubka aborts Barcelona take-off

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN BARCELONA

ALL week, favourites for Olympic gold medals have been crashing from a great height, but none has fallen as far as Sergey Bubka did yesterday. Bubka left the stadium without making a clearance in the pole vault, a departure even more ignominious than Michael Johnson's and Colin Jackson's and a departure which fractured Nike's multi-million dollar international advertising campaign built around Bubka. Johnson, the Algerian runner, Noureddine Morceli, and the American basketball player, Michael Jordan.

Bubka, the Ukrainian holder of the world record, world champion and Olympic champion, has shown himself a master under pressure in the past but, on this occasion, the nerves of steel deserted the king of the fibre glass pole.

He entered the competition at 5.70 metres, just as he had at the last Olympics, and failed with his first two attempts; just as he had in Seoul.

In Seoul, though, he grazed the bar with his third attempt at 5.70, but it stayed in place, and he went on to win with 5.90, clearing that height third go. But here he could not repeat the act; to give himself extra rest, he waited until the bar had been raised to 5.75 before taking his third attempt. On the way up, he knocked the bar off with his feet.

The gold medal went to Maxim Tarasov, of the United Team, with 5.80 metres, followed by Igor Trandenkov, also of the United Team, and on 5.80, Javier Garcia Chico, of Spain, on 5.75, with Bubka listed as "no result".

Bubka's world record is 6.11 metres. Istvan Bagoly, the Hungarian who finished runner-up to him in the world championships last year, had seen Bubka take the title from him with his last vault. He needed to clear 5.95 and did.

"He had not looked good at 5.90 or 5.95," Bagoly said then. "But it means nothing when you are talking about Bubka." This time it did.

According to Nike's advertising, Spanish air traffic control had been notified about Bubka. Now he joins the company's other big athletics name, Michael Johnson, in defeat.

Aged 28, Bubka's career earnings are in the region of \$2 million. After winning the world championship for the third time last year, he joined the Berlin team, Olympischer Sport. His contract gave him \$70,000 a year, an apartment and free plane tickets to fly his family between Germany and their home in the Ukraine.

Though he uses Berlin as his base for competing in Europe during the season, he says he is committed to the Ukraine. When he appeared at a press conference here before the Olympics began, he wore a shirt coloured Ukrainian yellow, white and blue.

It was as a small boy in Donetsk that he experimented with pole vaulting, improvising with his mother's clothes prop and washing line. Curiously became addiction and Bubka's attention to detail and training programme have set new standards in training. The reward for his labours has been 30 world records, 16 indoors and 14 outdoors.

Relay men nearly caught napping

FROM DAVID POWELL

THE British men's sprint relay team, all except Linford Christie, overslept yesterday morning but there was no question of them being caught napping in the afternoon. They raced their way into the 4x100 metres final today but only after a morning that Frank Dick, their coach, described as "the worst of my life".

Dick was perhaps overstating his difficulties but, having told the team to be ready to catch the 7.15am bus to the track for the quarter-finals, he was alarmed to find Jason John, Tony Jarrett and Marcus Adam still in bed. Moving as fast as they do on the track, they were out of bed and on the next bus half an hour later.

Only Linford Christie, as you would expect of the British team captain, was ready at the appointed time.

How had the 100 metres champion reacted? "He was not exactly overjoyed," Dick said. The admonitions were put to one side and they progressed to the semi-finals in the afternoon.

John Regis was brought into the team for the semi-final, replacing John. Regis had been saying all season that he did not want to be considered for the relay squad, but Dick persuaded him to change his mind. His inclusion became more urgent after the lead-off man, Jason Livingston, had been sent home in disgrace for failing a drugs test. Regis had equalled the British 200 metres record here and Dick said: "He came back in under certain conditions. We agreed that he did not need to run in the first round. We have a 20.09sec sprinter in the squad and it would have been unwise not to have him in the relay."

Britain may be in line for a medal but probably bronze at best. The United States will surely win the gold and Nigeria seem to have the first claim on silver.

The British women are not represented. Because of the parlous state of British women's sprinting, the selectors ruled that it was not

worth their while bringing one. In the 4x400 metres, however, Britain will be fighting for gold with the United States and Trinidad.

Using only two of the four athletes likely to contest the final today, Britain progressed with ease through yesterday's semi-finals. Mark Richardson and Du'Aine Ladejo are likely now to be dropped, having done the job asked of them.

Kris Akabusi, who delivered the world championship gold medal into British hands last year with a superb last leg, and Roger Black should keep their places. Regis and David Grindley, the new British record holder, are almost certain to take over from Richardson and Ladejo.

Lyng 37th after Tuesday, he had no choice but to go. Denzies, fully recovered from the bang to his leg on Tuesday, jumped superbly. His only four faults occurred at fence nine, when Grabb unluckily lost his stirrup.

Nick Skelton, who will have Barcelona '92 engraved on his heart, failed to qualify after another disastrous round on Dollar Girl. The mare, still unimpaired by her elimination in the team contest, hit fences one, three, both parts of the double, and then had a crashing fall at fence nine, after which she was retired.

"She was hating it in there and backing off each fence," Skelton said. "At fence nine I had to kick her and she took off a stride too soon."

Tim Grubb, of Britain, was one of the few to finish the 15-fence course with only four

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Tufnell's toils take England into contention

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (second day of five): Pakistan, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 68 runs ahead of England

THIS could have been the day when Pakistan put a match, and a series, out of England's reach. Instead, it still hangs tantalisingly in the balance after a performance in which England can feel simultaneously proud and frustrated.

The pride will come from clipping the wings of the Pakistanis to the point where, on a blameless pitch, nobody played a dominating innings to consolidate their position. The frustration should come from the knowledge that the fightback, admirable as it was, might have been stronger.

There was some very good England bowling, notably from Tufnell and Lewis, to set before another perspiring full house. But there was also some conspicuously bad bowling, one howler of a missed stumping and the constant suspicion that a slightly different side would have given England a better chance.

So well did Tufnell perform, especially when belatedly switched to the end from which he bewildered West Indies last year, that a second spin bowler can only have been to his, and England's, advantage. It would have meant no hardship to include one, either, for Fringle's contribution was six overs, bowled in two inept spells demonstrating that his form or fitness, and maybe both, did not justify his inclusion.

The rigid control of length and line, which served Malingier so famously at Headingley, deserted him now and he was cut and driven with impunity. Malcolm, however, took two wickets in a genuinely hostile pre-lunch spell of seven overs and might well have wondered why he was not employed immediately afterwards.

Gooch did not summon his strike bowler until midway and although he bowled one of the widest wickets this ground can have seen, the radar was soon functioning. His second over contained a fast, full straight one which

scattered the stumps as Ramiz played across the line. His sixth landed Sohail, nubbled at a short one and edging to the left of Stewart, who scooped up a good, low catch.

Sohail was justified in waiting for a decision but, not for the last time in the day, umpires Bird and Shepherd consulted quickly and clearly to ascertain that the ball had carried.

It was between lunch and tea that Pakistan imposed some order on the day. A century stand for the third wicket featured Shoaib Mohammad, confirming in one attempt the stabilising job he might profitably have been doing all series, and Javed Mianad. They did not hurry, for there was no need, but England's 207 looked an ever punier total.

Mianad, however, just cannot avoid controversy. It courts him determinedly, even when, as yesterday, his own role is innocent. Twice, either side of tea, Mianad declined to walk as England fielders swarmed to acclaim his wicket. Once, he was demonstrably not out. The second time, he was entitled to await a decision. Yet he was booed off, condemned on reputation rather than evidence.

Tufnell deserved his wicket, having lured him into a rash advance and turned the ball sharply past the drive, only to see Stewart sweep the ball across the top of the stumps before disturbing them at the second attempt. To Shepherd it had seemed such an easy stumping that he had begun to raise his finger before waggling it negatively as Tufnell, unsighted and bewildered, danced in agitation.

Mianad added only another ten before Lewis, stooping in his follow-through, claimed a low return catch. As the batsman held his ground, Shepherd looked across to Bird at square leg before raising his finger. It was perfectly good cricket all round and, this time, Mianad deserved none of the crowd's bile.

If this wicket gave some recognition to Lewis's sustained accuracy, Tufnell's reward arrived when Shoaib's vigil ended in a choiced caught-and-bowled. He had misread Tufnell's flight, as Mianad had done before him, and Salim was to do regularly thereafter.

To Tufnell's anguish, however, Salim survived to play the kind of innings where he was either being beaten or hitting the ball extravagantly for four. England were now in debit and this may transpire to have been more than they could afford.



John Woodcock, page 30
Photograph, page 30
Leading article, page 11

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings 207 (M A Atherton 60; Wasim Akram 6-87)

PAKISTAN: First Innings

	Bs	4s	6s	Mins	Balls
Aamir Sohail c Stewart b Malcolm	49	0	10	125	88
Edge scooped low by keeper diving left					
Ramiz Raja b Malcolm	19	0	1	92	66
Full-length ball angled between bat and pad					
Shoaib Mohammad c and b Tufnell	55	0	5	200	165
Mistimed chest-high drive to bowler					
Javed Mianad c and b Lewis	59	0	9	141	101
Ankle-high drive straight down pitch					
Salim Malik not out	38	0	5	123	88
Azul Mujtaba not out	31	0	3	98	92
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 3, nb 18)				24	
Total (4 wickets, 384 mins, 85 overs)				276	

Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Waqar Younis, Mueen-ul-Ahmed and Aqib Javed to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-94 (Sohail 38), 2-96 (Shoaib 5), 3-197 (Shoaib 52), 4-214 (Salim 12).

BOWLING: Malingier 19-3-65-0 (nb 6) (8-1-34-0, 4-1-15-0, 6-1-16-0); Malcolm 17-5-81-2 (nb 2, w 2) (2-0-11-0, 7-2-10-2, 4-1-15-0, 4-2-7-0); Lewis 22-5-57-1 (nb 2) (5-2-10-0, 8-1-15-0, 9-0-5-1); Tufnell 31-0-71-4 (nb 6) (8-0-28-0, 3-1-11-0, 17-0-24-1, 3-0-10-0); Fringle 6-0-28-0 (nb 2) (3-0-21-0, 3-0-7-0).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: First day: Close 18-0 (Sohail 9, Ramiz 7), 5 overs. Second day: 50 in 74 mins, 16.5 overs; 100 in 137 mins, 30 overs; Lunch 100-2 (Shoaib 13, Javed 9), 31 overs; 150 in 207 mins, 45.5 overs; Tea 180-2 (Shoaib 52, Javed 51), 59 overs; 200 in 278 mins, 83.2 overs; 250 in 350 mins, 83.1 overs.

FIFTIES: Shoaib in 152 mins, 113 balls, 5 fours; Javed in 123 mins, 87 balls, 8 fours.

Umpires: H D Bird and D R Shepherd.

PREVIOUS TESTS: June 4-9: Edgbaston: Match drawn. June 10-22: Lord's: Pakistan won by two wickets. July 2-7: Old Trafford: Match drawn. July 23-27: Headingley: England won by six wickets.

WEATHER: Today: Cloudy, with heavy rain accompanied by squally thunderstorms early on. Some bright intervals during the day. Becoming drier and brighter in the late afternoon. Tomorrow and Monday: Becoming brighter and clearer, with better weather moving in from the south and west. Cooler and fresher.

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5 years	£ 2,000	8.25%	7.01%

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